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STAYING ALIVE

Lifeguards stay on beaches as danger season begins

Tourist boat wrecked by big waves

OVER 100 tourists were rescued from a sinking Phuket-Phi Phi ferry on Tuesday.

The ferry sustained damage after being struck by a large wave, forcing the ship to eventually beach itself on a nearby island after all passengers were picked up by another boat.

Full story on [Page 2](#)

Dredge helps dirty canal water flow

Dredging along the Bang Tao Canal, which has been harboring dangerously toxic water, is 80 per cent complete.

The Cherg Talay Tambon Administration Organization President has said that the water, attributed with causing skin issues, is clearer and cleaner.

Full story on [Page 8](#)

Kamala wall blocking safe tsunami exit?

A WALL running parallel to Kamala Beach is a cause of concern for both locals and tourists as it blocks any immediate escape if another tsunami strikes Phuket's west coast.

Full story on [Pages 4-5](#)

By Namsai Wongsaree

LIFEGUARDS will remain on duty at Phuket's popular beaches until at least June 27 following an emergency extension of the government contract to provide the life-saving service.

With the annual contract expiring on May 27, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) pushed through the extension to

ensure the lifeguard service continues.

"I don't want to reveal any information in regards to the new contract at this moment because we are still in the process of getting it ready," PPAO Tourism Department Chief Juthaphon Thongcharoen said.

However, Mr Juthaphon confirmed the PPAO would increase the number of lifeguard stations from 33 last year to 38 stations this year.

The five additional stations will be at Kata,

Kata Noi, Karon, Patong and Kamala beaches, said PPAO Tourism officer Kanyarat Senrungs.

"Although the terms of the contract to be offered to the Phuket Lifeguard Club have yet to be finalized, at this stage it looks like the budget offered will be the same as last year," she added.

The emergency extension came as the annual southwest monsoon weather returned...

Continued on [Page 8](#)

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This Week



Business

US Navy shore leave worth at least a million dollars. **Page 11**



Property

The On On Hotel brings its history up to date. **Pages 13-14**



History

Historical Thai-Malay relations celebrated at Symposium. **Page 36**



Food

Enjoy a regal dining experience at The Grill in Panwa. **Page 39**



Environment

All you need to know about plastic and recycling. **Pages 40-41**



Sport

Women's FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour back to Karon. **Page 50**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Wednesday



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The ship took on water at the stern after a large wave broke through the flooring, and the bilge pump failed.

Over 100 tourists saved from sinking tour boat

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MORE than 100 people were rescued from a tourist boat that started sinking while returning from Phuket to Phi Phi Island to Phuket this afternoon after being damaged by big waves.

No injuries were reported.

The ferry, *Puean Foong II*, was near Chicken Island (Koh Kai), about 15 nautical miles from Phuket, when it took on water, said Phuket Marine Police Inspector Chatchai Sakdee.

"When we received the report at 4:10 this afternoon, we sent a Marine Police vessel to rescue everyone," Col Chatchai said.

However, by the time the Ma-

rine Police boat arrived, the passengers and crew had been picked up by another tour boat, the *Pichamon*, which was traveling from Phuket to Phi Phi. The crew saw the ferry in trouble and stopped to help.

"Pieces of the floor came flying off," one of the rescued passengers, wet and still wearing his life jacket on board the *Pichamon*, reported.

"Water was gushing in, and we realized, 'get some life jackets'," he said.

The *Pichamon* continued on to Phi Phi Island with the rescued passengers.

Salvage efforts were underway the following day, said the Man-

aging Director of Friendship Sea Tour Co Ltd, which manages the boat.

"We will attach about 30 200-liter oil drums to provide enough buoyancy to the ferry so we can have it pulled back to Phuket to be fixed," Managing Director Samphan Aiyara said. "We have no idea how long it will take to fix, but we will make it as fast as possible."

Mr Samphan said that the tourists rescued from the ferry were understanding of the situation.

"All the tourists on board realized that it was an accident, so they didn't complain about what happened," Mr Samphan said.

Phuket transport woes drive motorbike snatching defense

A LOCAL handyman says Phuket's lack of public transport is the reason he stole a motorbike to go visit a friend.

Phuket City Police arrested Koson Hongthong, 24, on Tuesday morning at the old weekend market in Phuket Town.

Mr Koson was found in possession of a Yamaha Fino that was reported stolen by its owner, Suraphong Makum, last week.

"Mr Suraphong reported that he left his bike running while he got off to answer his mobile phone on Sri Suthat Road at 9pm on May 23," Maj Kritsana Jannit of the Phuket City Police said.

"He saw Mr Koson run up, jump on the bike and ride off. Mr Suraphong called us again this morning [May 28] when he saw his motorbike parked in front of Surin Road Soi 3," he added.

Police arrived at the scene and waited for the thief to return.

"As we approached the motorbike, he saw us and quickly



Koson Hongthong

rode off," Maj Kritsana said.

Police gave chase and caught up with Mr Koson at the old market.

"He dumped the bike and ran, but we surrounded him and eventually arrested him," Maj Kritsana said.

Speaking in front of the press, Mr Koson claimed he needed to see a friend urgently, but had no way of getting across town to see him.

"I did not want to steal Mr Suraphong's bike. I was just in a hurry as my friend is a police informant and he called me asking me to meet him right away. There was no public bus available because it was in the evening," he said.

"I did not intend to steal - and I didn't sell any of the bike parts [the motorbike was returned complete - Ed]. I just wanted to borrow it, but did not have time to return it to the owner," Mr Koson said.

Despite his claims, Mr Koson was charged with theft.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



Mr Mao punched a customer who was unable to pay the pump price.

Burmese slash gas pump man for 'discount'

A BURMESE man working as a pump attendant was slashed on May 26 after he punched one of five Burmese customers who did not have the money to pay for the gas they had just received.

"Mr Mao talk to them for a while and then he punched one of them in the face," Patong Police inspector Pratuang Polmana said.

The Burmese men on the motorbike reacted angrily, with one of them pulling a knife and slashing Mr Mao across his chest.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Aggressive Aussie duo suffer Bangla 'justice'

By Thawit Bilabdullar

TWO drunk Australians were beaten down by a mob on Phuket's famous party street, Soi Bangla, early in the morning on May 24.

At about 1:30am Patong Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat arrived on Soi Bangla to find both Australians sitting in the middle of the road covered in blood.

Having only recently arrived in Phuket, the two men Antony Souners, 26, and Brad Trub, 30, suffered serious injuries: Mr Souners had a broken leg and Mr Trub had a large gash over his eye.

"They went out and got drunk. They talked, walked around and lost control of themselves," Lt Col Akanit said.

The bouncer at the Hollywood Discotheque did not allow the pair to come inside due to their level of intoxication, so Mr Souners



Police are not pursuing any of the charges against the drunken duo.

and Mr Trub made their way to the Kangaroo Bar. There, the men allegedly attacked an American

with an ashtray, Lt Col Akanit said.

The pair is also understood to have attacked other tourists in the

bar with a chair, and to have slapped one of the bar girls, Lt Col Akanit said.

Other patrons of the bar reacted violently to the duo's aggression, attacking them and leaving them seriously injured in the road.

"We sent them to Patong Hospital, and they were supposed to report back to us for questioning when they were released from the hospital, because we charged them with intoxication, causing bodily harm and causing damage to property," Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Chaowalit Petchsripia said.

However, police are not pursuing the duo since their release from Patong Hospital.

"Since none of the people they attacked has filed a complaint with us, we are not looking for them at this time," he added.

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal



Six passengers died at the scene of the truck crash, while another three succumbed to their injuries after arriving at hospital.

Nine dead in truck crash

NINE died and seven were injured after two pickup trucks – one carrying wedding guests returning to Trang from Phuket and one ferrying road construction workers – collided in Krabi on May 24.

Police were called to the scene at the dangerous curve known as *harm tai* ("forbidden to die") in Sai Khao district at 8pm. There they found two wrecked pickups, a Toyota and an Isuzu.

Six passengers were dead at the scene and 10 were injured. The injured were taken to an area hospital, where three more later succumbed to their injuries.

"The construction workers were headed back to their camp in Klong Thom District and the wedding guests were coming from Phuket, headed to Trang," said Lt Wirat Madosod of the Sai Khao Police.

"It appears that the driver of the construction workers' truck lost control in the rain and slammed into the wedding guests' truck on the curve," he said.

Police believe road conditions were the cause of the accident. However, they are continuing their investigation.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Brakeless juggernaut runs Patong Hill gauntlet

THE brakes on a 10-wheeled truck failed as it descended into Patong Monday morning, sending the heavy vehicle careening off the road and into a roadside ditch.

No injuries were reported from the accident, Lt Col Nikorn Chuthong of the Patong Police said.

Truck driver Somneuk Cherngthorn, 41, was delivering a small load of merchandise from Phuket Town at about 9:30am when the accident occurred.

The 10-wheeler missed oncoming traffic, struck the roadside guard rail, rammed a billboard and flattened a street lamp before coming to a full stop by slamming into the ditch.

"I was heading down the hill and the brakes failed. I did my best and luckily avoided hitting any oncoming vehicles – it was rush hour," Mr Somneuk explained.

"I aimed for the far side of the road and hit the advertising billboard to make sure the truck was well out of the way of other vehicles," he said.

Malee Saengfah was at home when her house narrowly escaped being struck by the runaway truck.

"I was so lucky the truck did not hit my house. I heard the crash and rushed out to see what happened," she said.

Col Nikorn told the *Gazette* that a team of



No one was injured in the Patong Hill accident.

officers had been assigned to investigate the accident and follow up with any necessary legal action.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Phuket murder trail leads to Hungary

ROYAL Thai Police investigating the murder of 39-year-old Hungarian businessman Laszlo Csapai may travel to Hungary to question a key witness, the *Gazette* was told Wednesday.

The witness, currently jailed in Hungary, claims he saw prime suspect Moshe David murder Mr Csapai and bury the body, Surat Thani Provincial Police Commander Kiattipong Khaosum-ang explained.

Following the witness' testimony, Thai police searched Mr David's villa in Bophut, Samui, where they found a human skeleton buried under the house – right where the witness said it would be (as reported on page 1 of the April 27 issue of the *Gazette*).

The Institute of Forensic Medicine at Police General Hospital in Bangkok last week confirmed through DNA matching that the bones were those of the missing millionaire Mr Csapai, a former business partner of Mr David.

"I have sent a request to Royal



The remains of Laszlo Csapai discovered under a villa on Koh Samui.

Thai Police headquarters [in Bangkok] asking for advice on our next step in the investigation. We will travel to Hungary to question the witness if we need to," Maj Gen Kiattipong explained.

Prime suspect Moshe David is a dual national with both Israeli and Hungarian citizenship. His Hungarian passport names him as Gabor Nemeth.

Mr David was arrested in Bangkok on December 4 for the alleged murder of Peter Reisz, also a Hungarian national who moved from Samui to Phuket, reportedly in fear for his life.

Mr David confessed to killing Mr Reisz in a fit of rage and dumping his body in a forest in Kathu. He denied the charge of murder.

– Orawin Narabal

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Phuket hosts full-scale tsunami, earthquake disaster response

ABOUT 300 emergency-response officers from Phuket and Phang Nga joined forces to stage a full-scale tsunami evacuation and sea rescue drill off the northern tip of Phuket on Wednesday.

The drill started with the sounding of the tsunami warning alarm, prompting the officers from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in Phuket and Phang Nga to leap into action.

Joining the co-ordinated exercise were first responders from hospitals, rescue foundations, local administrative organizations (*OrBorTor*), police, Marine Police and the Royal Thai Navy.

"The entire exercise took about three hours," said DDPM-Phuket Operations chief Udomporn Karn.

"Every department handled the situation very well and was on alert to play their part," he added.

The drill simulated a response to a tsunami striking the coast after a major earthquake off the northern tip of Sumatra in Indonesia – the real-life factors that triggered the tsunami in 2004.

"People taking part in the exer-



Emergency first responders help a simulated victim to safety during the full-scale tsunami drill on Wednesday. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

cise were evacuated to safety zones in Phuket and Phang Nga," Mr Udomporn explained.

After the tsunami drill, the officers conducted an earthquake evacuation drill, simulating a response to a quake that cracks the three bridges joining Phuket to the Thai mainland, causes car accidents and leaves 20 people injured.

In the drill, officers from Thai

Navy Third Area Command used a helicopter to search for and rescue survivors.

"With both exercises now over, we will call in our teams and summarize the problems we encountered today and review what measures need to be taken in order to improve our response," Mr Udomporn said.

– *Orawin Narabal*

Breaching

TSUNAMI evacuation drills have become part of Phuket life since the devastating waves struck our shores in 2004.

But has familiarity bred contempt for safety in the west coast village of Kamala? The *Phuket Gazette* reports.

SPECIAL REPORT

PHUKET hosted a full-scale tsunami drill on Wednesday, with rescue workers practicing the actions they would take should a wall of water hit the island beaches once more.

Meanwhile, a stationary wall in Kamala – 150 meters long and running parallel to the beach – has sunk fear in the heart of locals that their own escape from an impending tsunami is being blocked.

"Right now, all the shop owners along the Kamala beachfront are worried that they will not have enough time to run to safety if a tsunami comes," said village chief Wattanaporn "Chai" Sanay, who survived the tsunami in 2004.

'When a tsunami comes, you just run. In 2004, my wife and I ran wearing just our sarongs. We ran as fast as we could. We left everything behind'

– **Wattanaporn "Chai" Sanay, who survived the 2004 tsunami.**

The wall in question runs 150m end-to-end behind the local police station and stops any direct retreat from the beach.

It belongs to the person who owns the land behind the station, and the authorities admit they are powerless to order the owner to pull it down.

"I have received many complaints from villagers about the wall behind Kamala Police Station," Nopporn Karuna, a vice president of the Kamala Tambon Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*), told the *Gazette*.

"It used to be open for every-

one to walk through, but now it is closed and people are not allowed to pass," he said.

"I know it is private land, so we cannot order the owner to pull it down. The owner has every right to have that wall on his own land," explained Mr Nopporn, who has been given full responsibility for all aspects for tsunami evacuation drills in Kamala.

With escape access across the private land now blocked, tsunami evacuation signs direct people fleeing a tsunami to follow the street for 250 meters – paralleling the beachfront, not going away from it.

A n o t h e r chief concern is that the crowds of people who gather in the area between the police station and the beach every Friday for the local market would

be penned in by the existing wall.

The *Gazette* was shown one gate at the northern end of the wall. The gate, although padlocked, is a flimsy wooden frame marked "Private".

It is down a narrow unmarked lane on hotel property, about 150m from where the busy market is held each week, making it very easy to miss by people fleeing for their lives.

"All we ask is for the owner to put a gate in the middle of the wall to make us feel safer," Mr Wattanaporn pleaded.

"I know the owner of the land

Naked night-rider cops

A CHIANG MAI man has been arrested by police after a video surfaced on YouTube of him driving around the northern city on a 1.2-million-baht superbike.

That might not sound criminal in itself. The issue of concern to the cops was that Chetaphon Chantarabunthawi, 25, was completely naked at the time.

Mr Chetaphon told reporters that he had made the video for a bet.

On April 30, he was drinking with his gang, who call themselves "Rock Mode", at the Infinity bar in Chiang Mai's Niman Hemin area.

One of them challenged Mr Chetaphon: if he dared ride his Ducati superbike around the city completely naked, he would for-



give him a 500-baht debt and pay him an extra 1,000 baht.

Mr Chetaphon agreed and his nude exploits on the rare superbike were filmed by his friends. The video, which they uploaded to Facebook, was shared widely on social media until it attracted the attention of the Chiang Mai Police.

In parts of the video Mr Chetaphon is seen standing up so that his manhood can be clearly seen.

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walls for tsunami safety



Heading inland might prove difficult with walls blocking direct routes away from the beach. Photos: Saran Mitrarat

does not want everyone to come onto his property. I understand. I don't want to trespass, either," said Mr Wattanaporn.

"A gate would be used for tsunami evacuation only. Anyone who has not faced this situation would not know how we feel," he added.

"When a tsunami comes, you just run. In 2004, my wife and I ran wearing just our sarongs. We ran as fast as we could. We left everything behind," Mr Wattanaporn said.

ANOTHER WALL

The southern wall on Kamala Beach isn't the only one causing concern.

A second wall, nearly two meters tall and stretching 440m along the Kamala beachfront, frightened a Swedish tourist so

much that in an email to the *Gazette*, he vowed not to return.

"I have been visiting Kamala for many years, but now I think this will probably be my last," he said.

"What should happen to people on the beach if a tsunami comes? As far as I can tell they would be caught in a mousetrap! This is nearly unbelievable. How can this be allowed to happen?"

"Thank you for many years of pleasure, now it's over," he said.

How many other tourists have felt the same – and vowed not to come back – the *Gazette* has no way of knowing.

This second wall makes up the ocean-facing perimeter of the Kamala Islamic Cemetery at the north end of the beach. A pathway 2.5m wide runs next to the wall and is kept clear as a tsunami evacua-

tion route, said Mr Noppoporn of the Kamala *OrBorTor*.

"We have posted signs to let everyone know which way to run," he added.

Local lifeguard Jaturong Wichien, 29, who survived the 2004 tsunami, agreed.

"When the tsunami came [in 2004], I did not jump over the wall. I just used the walkway around it. But it wasn't as tall as it is now. After the tsunami, the Kamala *OrBorTor* made it higher," he said.

"The wall now is still not too high, though. Most people would be able to jump it and run to the road," he added, still noting that the wall stood nearly two meters tall.

Mr Jaturong also pointed out that there were two gates along the beachfront wall.



The only 'hole in the wall' behind the police station remains locked.



The two gates along the 440m cemetery wall are unmarked, but not locked.

"The gates are pulled closed, but they are not locked. Anyone at anytime can pull the gates open and run through," he said.

Whether people are aware of the potential tsunami escape routes through the gates remains in doubt.

The *Gazette* saw no signs indicating the gates were unlocked and may be used in case of emergency.

FAITH

Mr Nopporn of the Kamala *OrBorTor* urged people to have faith in Phuket's tsunami warning sirens and the evacuation plans in place.

"We stage a tsunami evacuation drill once a year, please trust our system. The sirens will sound the alarm about an hour before a tsunami would arrive, but it takes

only 10 to 15 minutes to evacuate everyone to a safe place," he said.

The Kamala *OrBorTor* has established three safe zone assembly points, Mr Nopporn said.

"One is on Kuan Yak Hill, near the Andara Resort and Villa. It is on high ground. Another is near Laem Singh Beach, where we are building a shelter to store first-aid supplies. The third is at Hua Khuan village near Phuket FantaSea," he explained.

"You can also run to Rajaprachanugroh School [near the south end of the beach] in case you cannot make it to the safe zones. The school is four-stories tall and was built very strong after the tsunami," Mr Nopporn assured the *Gazette*.

See Editorial on page 18

charge for dirty dare

The police decided Mr Chetaphon's behavior was "not appropriate" and promptly arrested him.

"I prostrate myself in apology to the people of Chiang Mai," said Mr Chetaphon. "I wasn't blind drunk, I'd just had a little bit of alcohol and took a challenge for fun."

"I stood up because it was painful," he said. "My penis was bumping against the bike's tank. I wasn't trying to show anyone [my penis] because it was already very dark [the night, not his penis – Ed]."

Mr Chetaphon said the video had been uploaded onto the Rock Mode Facebook page by his friend Bom, who owned the bike. Bom had already returned to Macau,

where he works in a casino, he said.

Maj Gen Chamnan Ruatree, deputy commissioner of Region 5 Police, warned young people not to copy Rock Mode's antics because they weren't appropriate and went against the culture of the people of Chiang Mai.

Gen Chamnan said there were many such groups that forced members to take challenges like this to gain membership. One group asked members to roller skate naked on a mountain near Chiang Mai, he said.

Lt Col Kraisi Chunphak said Mr Chetaphon would be charged with public indecency and faced a sentence of one month in jail, a fine of 800 to 2,000 baht, or both.

– Sanook

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Police practice for perfection

With gold shop robberies on the rise, Phuket's Top Brass demands higher performance

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

WITH millions of baht of gold snatched from Phuket gold shops over the past year, Phuket police and gold shop owners joined together for a gold shop crime drill last week.

"The recent increase in the number of gold shop and supermarket robberies has made it necessary for shop owners and police to know exactly what to do in these scenarios," said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

Though Chermg Talay Police Station was the first on the island to conduct a gold shop crime drill, Maj Gen Choti has ordered all police stations across the island to run through the drill and be prepared.

In the practice scenario, a man snatched a gold chain from Aun Heng Gold Shop in Chermg Talay before jumping on to his motorbike and speeding away, explained Chermg Talay Police Superintendent

Chanuchan Cholsuwat.

"The shop owner then made a report to police and described the robber," Col Chanuchan said. "After receiving the report, police surrounded the suspect and were able to place him under arrest within about 20 minutes."

Aun Heng Gold Shop owner, Kanjana Tanthong, said the drill boosted her confidence in the ability of police to quickly and effectively deal with a gold shop robbery.

"I learned how to prepare myself and my staff for a robbery, and am more confident that the police will handle the crime well," Ms Kanjana said.

The most important thing for gold shop owners to do is observe the thief carefully, and remember his skin color, face, hair, what he is wearing and also details about his vehicle, Col Chanuchan said.

"Don't be nervous, just focus on the details," he said.

According to police, every gold shop should have CCTV cameras,



Police remind shop owners to remain calm, not to fight back and to focus on details about the robber.

bars separating their merchandise from the public and a silent emergency alarm that connects directly to the police.

"In the event of a robbery, let the thief take whatever he wants,"

Col Chanuchan said.

Press the emergency alarm only when it is safe to do so, he added.

The request for all police stations on Phuket to run the gold shop crime drill comes in the wake

of a customer being shot dead during a robbery, and police most recently having to cast their net across all of Southern Thailand after fruitless searches for the killer on Phuket (see story below).

Police post YouTube Video of gold shop suspect, unmasked

POLICE have posted a YouTube video showing the man they believe committed the gold shop murder-burglary in Phuket on April 8 in the hope that members of the public can identify him.

The CCTV footage shows a man with a slight limp smoking as he walks back and forth in front of the C.P. Gold Master & Jewelry store on the bypass road the night before the lethal robbery.

The man who robbed the store was reported to have a limp.

"We checked the CCTV footage of the gold shop to find the suspect. We found him on the April 7 tape at 7:49pm walking in front of the shop as if to inspect it," said Col Arun Kleawwatee, Deputy Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police.

"We are passing the CCTV clip to the media and posting it online, hoping that someone recognizes



The man walked with the same limp as the suspect. Image: YouTube

the man," Col Arun said.

There is a 400,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer, he added.

"Anyone with information, please call us either at the private numbers of Col Sermpan Sirikong

081-6911263 or Lt Col Prawit Engchuan 081-4158668 or the Phuket Provincial Police at 076-212046," Col Arun urged.

"Or go to the nearest police station to file a report," he said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Slippery serpent surprises locals



Photo: Rune Hyll Krantz

A CROWD was drawn to Soi Nanai at the unusual time of 7:40am last week as rescue workers dislodged a three-meter long python from a drain.

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Tourist Police murder probe grinds to a halt

THE investigation into a Phuket Tourist Police Officer involved in a gunfight with neighbors that left two men dead and two, including the officer, injured on March 20 has come to a standstill.

Police are still waiting for results from the Office of Forensic Science Police to determine whether the bullets that killed the two men were fired from Tourist Police Officer Pinchai Piyadilok's gun, Phuket City Police chief Col Sermpan Sirikong said.

"The Office of Forensic Science Police is loaded with cases from across Thailand, so we cannot be certain when the results will come. When they do, we will pass them along to the Public Prosecutor," said Col Sermpan.

Sgt Pinchai, whose right leg was amputated in order to save his life was discharged from hospital

in April, he said.

"We let him out on bail in order to get him the treatment he needed at the hospital. He is now recovering at his house in Chumphon.

"He lost a leg, which makes it almost impossible for him to get around, so we are not worried that he will skip bail," added Col Sermpan.

The other survivor from the gunfight, Natthapong Kaewkuanchum, 25, who was shot three times in the chest, has also been discharged from hospital.

"When the incident happened in March, Mr Natthapong declined to give any statement to investigators. He claimed that he did not remember what happened. We are in the process of contacting him and will try to question him again.

— Namsai Wongsaree

Tourist long-tails return to sea despite warnings

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

KRABI long-tail boat operators have resumed tourist services to outlying islands following stormy seas that capsized much of the local fleet on Saturday, May 25.

The move to resume tours to the islands in Thailand's iconic boats comes despite warnings by the Thai Meteorological Department for small boats to stay on shore due to high seas.

The warnings follow damage to 77 long-tail boats on Saturday, when they were capsized by large waves.

Boat driver Somkid Laansun, 37, described the events at Ao Nam Mao beach: "After two hours of strong waves, there was a big wave three to four meters high, bigger than anything I've seen since the tsunami.

"Boat drivers jumped out of their boats to save their lives.

"After the sea calmed down, I saw about 60 boats that had been capsized," he said.

Boats elsewhere were also affected.

10 long-tails were capsized at Hong Island, where two people were reported injured and 138 tourists were stranded for two hours, said Lt Col Chaisit Kancharoen of the Marine Police.

"We sent a patrol boat out to bring them back to the mainland. All of them are safe," he said.

Ten boats at Phi Phi Island along with the 60 at Ao Nam Mao capsized, said Thalerngsak Phuwayanapong, chief of the Krabi Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office.

Local officials have already organized help for the boat owners.



Over 70 boats moored close to shore capsized in Krabi (above) due to high seas last week (below).

"We have set up tables where people who suffered damage to their boats can file for aid. At this point about 50 people have filed," Mr Thalerngsak said.

The Krabi long-tail boats regularly ferry tourists to Chicken Island (Koh Kai), Poda Island, Tub Island, Talay Waek (Separated Sea), said Chamnam Srisawat, President of the Tourism Association.

Additional reporting by Saran Mitratat



Shop owners fight to get parking back



The shopkeepers want the former no-parking hours re-instated.

MORE than 30 vendors with stores located opposite Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town have appealed to the Phuket City Mayor to reverse the decision to install no-parking signs in front of their shops.

The new signs, which prohibit parking in the area from 7am to 6pm, were installed on May 16 as a way to try to alleviate heavy traffic congestion in front of the hospital.

However, the vendors have complained that customers can no longer stop and buy things like they used to, said Phuket City councilor Pairoj Ruamphanpong, representing his constituency.

Phuket City Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Thawatchai Thongmang received the complaint on behalf of Mayor Somjai Suwansupana.

"The traffic around the hospital is very congested. People living in the area filed complaints to us about it, so we tried to solve the problem by establishing the no-parking zone," he explained.

"I will discuss this problem with the Phuket City Traffic Police and try to find another solution that does not adversely affect the vendors," Mr Thawatchai added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Road construction on steep hill brings landslide fears in Krabi

BUSINESS owners' fears of landslides that could be caused by a recently constructed road on a steep hill in the Ao Nang area of Krabi led to an investigation of the construction site on May 23.

Locals also claimed that the road had been developed on Hat Noppharat Thara – Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park land.

However, those allegations were quickly laid to rest after officers of the Royal Forest Department's conservation unit in Krabi double checked their own maps and were presented with a title deed by the land owner.

"Based on the Royal Forest Department map, we were able to confirm that the road is not on national park land," said Naruset Kaewkong of the Royal Forest Department in Krabi.

"However, the road is built on a hill slope that is steeper than



Building roads on slopes greater than 30 degrees is illegal.

30 degrees, which is illegal. It is the steepness that has caused people to worry about potential landslides," he said.

The road in question is currently

about one kilometer long and about eight meters wide.

Officers are continuing their investigation into the case.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Gov Maitri (left) meets taxi drivers.

Taxis get jump on Gov Maitri

GOVERNOR Maitri Inthasut was met en masse last week by the drivers of a second taxi company after having already been dragged to Phuket International Airport due to an all-night vigil held by the illegal taxi drivers of Mook Andaman Co-operative outside his official residence on May 22.

After concluding his meeting with Mook Andaman, Governor Maitri held another – unscheduled – meeting with a different group of taxi drivers, those who work for Phuket Airport Limousine and Business Cooperative Ltd (PBC).

Hearing that Gov Maitri would be at the airport, PBC drivers flocked to the facility at 4:15pm with about 40 vehicles.

Long-time concessionaire PBC is one of the three operators that were granted a concession by the Airports of Thailand (AOT) to legally operate at the airport.

The PBC group complained to Gov Maitri that their metered taxis had been stopped by airport security and their passengers had been forced to disembark.

– Saran Mitrarat

Dredging gets hazardous canal water flowing freely

By Saran Mitrarat

BANG Tao Canal water, blamed for a rash of health problems for Phuket tourists and boatmen at Bang Tao Beach last month, is now flowing more freely with 80 per cent of the canal-dredging process complete.

Akkarawat Hirunphun, director of the Phuket-based Regional Environmental Office 15, said tests conducted by his officers in April confirmed that the water in the canal at multiple locations had average Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) readings well over the legal standard.

Now, however, the water has cleared up to some extent, Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) President Ma-ann Samran said at a meeting about the issue on May 23.

“When the process is 100 per cent complete, the water will be even more clear, which will allow us to know exactly which buildings are polluting the water based on their discharge,” Mr Ma-ann said.

The pollution of the water has been blamed on the many hotels, restaurants, bars, car wash businesses and houses lining a two-kilometer stretch of the canal.

“Business owners, local residents and local government officers need to know the penalty [for releasing untreated wastewater]



Over 80 per cent of the dredging is done, already improving the quality of the water. Photo: Cherng Talay OrBorTor

ter] under the Environment Act Sections 80 and 82,” Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak said at the meeting.

He announced that another meeting would be held to teach lo-

cals the damaging effects of releasing untreated wastewater into the canal.

“If local government officers enforce the environmental laws, the residents will see that we are

serious about solving this problem,” V/Gov Somkiet said. “I’m pretty sure they will not pollute if law enforcement is strict.”

The date for the next meeting has yet to be set.

Gas tanker leaks trail of fuel through Phuket Town

A SIX-WHEELED gasoline tanker truck leaked a trail of fuel 2.5 kilometers long through Phuket Town this week, causing motorbikes to skid and fall, and resulting in at least one hospitalization on Monday.

Police responded to a report at 11am that a tanker had leaked “gasoline” on Yaowarat Road from the intersection with Mae Luan Road all the way to Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Phuket City Traffic Police and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation officials followed the trail and found 41-year-old Rattapanon Kittitaraphon on the ground in front of Vachira Phuket Hospital with a leg injury.

“I was riding with my two sons. I was totally unaware of the fuel spill and my bike



Phuket City Disaster Prevention and Mitigation officials believe the fuel spilled from the tanker truck’s own gas tanks.

slid out from under me,” Ms Rattapanon said.

“I hurt my leg, but luckily neither of my sons was hurt,” she added.

Officials believe the fuel spilled from the tanker truck’s own gas tanks, not from the huge tank it was hauling.

“A pump attendant must have forgotten to put the gas cap back on,” one official said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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From page 1

... to the region, wreaking havoc by swamping a tour boat en route to Phuket from Phi Phi Island and capsizing over 70 long-tail boats in Krabi (see page 7).

Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut “Nut” Chuayuan urged all visitors to be especially cautious during this period, when rip currents are stronger than usual.

“Check with lifeguards on duty before swimming, and don’t swim when red flags are posted,” he said.

“Most of the drowning victims in Phuket have been caught in rip currents. They tried to swim back to shore, but became too tired and drowned,” Mr Prathaiyut told the *Gazette*.

Mr Prathaiyut explained that one of the biggest

barriers lifeguards face in saving tourists’ lives was the attitudes of the tourists themselves. Many tourists choose to ignore warnings and end up endangering their own lives, he said.

“We sometimes have problems with tourists not following our warnings, especially Russians. I don’t think communication is an issue in this case. Some Russians just don’t listen and think they can swim,” Mr Prathaiyut said.

“Some tourists even get upset and cause a scene, to which I have urged all lifeguards to stay calm and explain to the tourists politely the dangers of swimming in such conditions.

“I would like everyone to realize that lifeguards warn you for your own safety. Please swim only in the designated swimming zones,” he added.

Thai woman charged for pimping own niece in Korean massage parlor

A 37-YEAR-OLD woman is facing charges of human trafficking and forcing a child into prostitution after her 17-year-old niece accused her of making her work in a South Korean brothel.

The young woman was rescued from a massage parlor in Seoul on May 17 in a joint operation by Thai and South Korean police. The officers acted after the girl used a phone to send a message asking for help on Facebook.

The accused woman, Piengjai Kim, denies the five charges involved in the alleged crime.

The girl claimed she was forced by Mrs Piengjai to work as a masseuse and to provide sex for customers.

Mrs Piengjai flew back to Thailand last month for police interrogation, at which time she firmly denied the allegation.

"I don't understand why she would make up such a story. Perhaps she found her job

as a masseuse far too tiring. She has never done hard work before," Mrs Piengjai said.

"Or perhaps she was afraid of being reprimanded by her parents if she told them she did not want to work in Seoul.

"She had been there for a few days. If she had told me that she wanted return, I would have sent her back," Mrs Piengjai said.

"She didn't understand that her allegations would have such a serious impact," Mrs Piengjai said.



Piengjai Kim (left). Photo: The Nation



The nails used in the bomb were different than those typically used in the South. Photo: The Nation

Cops: Nail-bomb not connected to Southern violence

AUTHORITIES say a nail-bomb that exploded in Bangkok's Ramkhamhaeng area last week was not connected with the Deep South conflict, though they have yet to establish a definite motive for the attack.

Seven people were injured by the blast, which happened at a roadside shopping area on Ramkhamhaeng Road on Sunday night.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Lt-General Khamronwit said the types of nails used in the bomb were different from those used in the Deep South. He said the bomb seemed to be aimed at intimidating, not taking lives.

He added that police had not yet ruled out conflicts between gangs extorting protection fees from roadside vendors as a motive.

A bomb-disposal officer, who asked not to be identified, said the maker of the bomb apparently wanted to make it look similar to attacks in the South.

However, the bomb used less powerful explosives and the nails were in distorted shapes, he said.

'Southern Wall' to stop bomb supply smuggling

AROUND THE nation

ARMY chief Prayuth Chan-ocha has proposed building a fence across the entire Malaysian border to prevent insurgents from smuggling bombs into Thailand's volatile Deep South.

Gen Prayuth's proposal comes as peace talks with the separatist Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) continue – as does the deadly violence.

On May 28, two soldiers were shot dead in a roadside ambush on the Pattani-Yala Road in Pattani's Mae Lan district.

And on May 24, the Buddhist holiday of Visakha Bucha Day, five paramilitary personnel were killed in Pattani when a 30-kilogram bomb exploded as their pickup truck passed by it.

The rangers were on their way to help security forces provide safety for Buddhists travelling to local temples.

"Five rangers are dead, including the commander who succumbed to his injuries," Sgt Montri Prommee of Sai Buri po-



A roadside bomb killed five paramilitary personnel. Army Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha hopes that a wall will hamper the supply of bomb-making materials crossing the border and falling into insurgents' hands. Photo: The Nation

lice said. He said the insurgents were attempting to cause unrest on important days.

"The insurgents are trying to cause chaos," Fourth Army Commander Lt Gen Sakol Chuentrakul said.

Analysts say that rebel groups are using increasingly sophisticated bomb-making and detonation techniques to cause more casualties.

Three days after the attack, Gen Prayuth suggested building a wall across the entire Thai-Malay border. He said the wall would help prevent the delivery of explosives to insurgents in the Deep South, allowing security officials to focus on breaking down networks of bomb-makers and bomb-assembly outfits.

The general said Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Defence Min-

ister Sukampol Suwannathat and Deputy PM Chalerm Yoobamrung had been told of the idea and that PM Yingluck agreed in principle.

Gen Prayuth said the issue would be raised in a meeting with Malaysia on June 13, when Thai negotiators are set to meet with some insurgent representatives and the Malaysian authorities, who are the facilitators in the ongoing peace dialogue.

Web users in Guy Fawkes cyberwar

AN ONLINE war between government supporters and opponents has broken out, with both sides appropriating Guy Fawkes masks as symbols and insulting each other on internet sites.

Web users who oppose the Yingluck Shinawatra government are changing their Facebook profiles to white Guy Fawkes masks, which have become a symbol of resistance against oppressive government since the "V for Vendetta" movie was released in 2005.

The users are posting a message on government sites and pro-Yingluck Facebook pages stating: "The people's army has awakened. We pronounce here that we will bring down and eradicate the Thaksin regime from Thailand."

In reaction, the government is



Anti-government protesters are hiding behind white Guy Fawkes masks, while red-shirts have taken to red ones. Photo: The Nation

threatening to find and prosecute users posting the messages.

Meanwhile, pro-government red shirts are launching a counter-

campaign, changing their profile pictures to red Guy Fawkes masks and attacking anti-government websites.

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In brief...

South Korea shuts nuclear reactors over fake papers

SOUTH Korea said on Tuesday it was suspending the operations of two nuclear power reactors and extending a shutdown of a third to replace cables that were supplied using fake certificates, threatening power shortages in Asia's fourth-biggest economy.

The government warned there could be "unprecedented" electricity shortages and rolling blackouts this summer due to the nuclear shutdowns.

Pope to Mafia: Stop wrecking people's lives and repent

POPE Francis spoke out against mafia organizations exploiting and enslaving people last Sunday, calling on mafiosi to repent in words that recalled an impassioned plea by Pope John Paul II.

High profile killings by the Italian mafia have declined since the 1990s, but through activities such as prostitution, extortion and drug trafficking they still wield a heavy influence over the country and its economy.

Kimberley Process suspends Central African Republic

CENTRAL African Republic has been suspended from the Kimberley Process, a global watchdog set up to halt the trade in conflict diamonds, after a rebel coalition seized power there in March, a diplomatic missive said on Monday.

The document, signed by current Kimberley Process chair South Africa and sent to the 80 member states, said certified diamond trading with the impoverished and coup-prone central African nation had been halted with immediate effect.

African defense force still just a paper tiger

By Pascal Fletcher and Drazen Jorgic

A WEBSITE created for Africa's proposed continental defense force proclaims a lofty mission "to support and keep peace for Africa's prosperity and a better life for all in the world".

But click on current operations on the African Standby Force site and the response is a dispiriting "page cannot be found".

The force dreamed of half a century ago by the founding fathers of independent Africa still exists only on paper, casting a shadow over the back-slapping at this weekend's African Union (AU) summit, which is marking 50 years since the foundation of its precursor, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Instead of a muscular rapid-response force to halt genocide, protect civilians in coups or civil wars and pursue jihadists, drug traffickers and pirates, African peacekeeping remains a hotchpotch, almost entirely externally funded and mixed into UN or foreign missions.

"If ever we needed an African standby force, it is now," said Emmanuel Kwesi Aning, head of research at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana.

He pointed to recent coups and conflicts in Mali, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic, jarring plotlines in the narrative of an economically emergent Africa attracting foreign trade and investment.

"If you looked at Mali, the African standby force was more a bystander force," said South African defense analyst Helmoed Romer Heitman of the slow preparations for a UN-backed African force slated to intervene in late



Malian soldiers practice marksmanship during a European Union training session. Photo: Reuters

2013 in Mali, where Islamist rebels seized control of the northern half of the country.

Events overtook the plans. The AU largely watched from the sidelines in January as former colonial power France, at the request of Mali's government, rushed in troops to drive back an Islamist rebel offensive threatening the southern capital Bamako.

This was not what Ghana's first president, Kwame Nkrumah, had in mind when he called for "a common defense system with African high command" in a speech at the 1963 founding of the OAU. Nkrumah also warned against "hobnobbing with colonialism".

Plans drawn up a decade ago, when the AU replaced the tooth-

less OAU, foresee a 5,000-strong Standby Force, comprising five regional brigades from across Africa, responding within 14 or 30 days to various crisis scenarios.

AU officials say there is no certainty the full force will be up and running by the target date of 2015.

AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Ramtane Lamamra said the AU Commission was consulting with member states' ministers and military chiefs about setting up an interim African rapid-response unit that could go into action while the larger standby force is being put together.

Though the AU has publicly backed the Mali intervention by France, which is due to hand over most security there to a UN-man-

dated African force, Paris's military presence in its former colony still rankles with some.

But the question of who should fund a properly trained and equipped continental force is key for Africa, the world's least developed region. Despite buoyant recent growth, half of the continent's nearly 1 billion inhabitants live in poverty.

"Most African countries are so poor they can't afford effective security forces," Heitman said. "So help is needed."

But Ghana's Aning warns the future credibility of the AU is at stake. "I think Africa must fund the largest part of the Africa Standby Force," he said.

— Reuters

US: Major weapon designs compromised by Chinese

CHINESE hackers have gained access to designs of more than two dozen major US weapons systems, a US report said on Monday, as Australian media reported Chinese hackers had stolen the blueprints for Australia's new spy headquarters.

Citing a report prepared for the Defense Department by the Defense Science Board, the *Washington Post* said the compromised US designs included those for combat aircraft and ships, as well as missile defenses vital for Europe, Asia and the Gulf.

Among the weapons listed in the report were the advanced Patriot missile system, the Navy's Aegis ballistic missile defense systems, the F/A-18 fighter jet, the V-22 Osprey, the Black Hawk helicopter and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The report did not specify the extent or time of the cyber-thefts or indicate if they involved computer networks of the US government, contractors or subcontractors.

But the espionage would give China knowledge that could be exploited in a conflict, such



US says design information for Black Hawk helicopters was stolen. Photo: Sra Gudrun Cook

as the ability to knock out communications and corrupting data, the *Post* reported.

It also could speed China's development of its defense technology.

In a report to Congress this month, the Pentagon said China was using espionage to

modernize its military and its hacking was a serious concern. It said the US government had been the target of hacking that appeared to be "attributable directly to the Chinese government and military."

China dismissed the report as groundless.

China also dismissed as without foundation a February report by the US computer security company Mandiant, which said a secretive Chinese military unit was probably behind a series of hacking attacks targeting the United States that had stolen data from 100 companies.

In Australia, a news report said hackers linked to China stole the floor plans of an AUS\$630 million headquarters for the Australia Security Intelligence Organisation, the country's domestic spy agency.

The attack through the computers of a construction contractor exposed not only building layouts, but also the location of communication and computer networks, it said.

— Reuters

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Navy shore leave pumped millions into the economy

Thousands of US sailors came ashore

By Steven Layne

THE island's economy – especially at the party town of Patong – got an early low-season boost thanks to this past week's visit by the American Navy supercarrier, USS Nimitz along with its armed missile-cruiser escort, the USS Princeton, which both moored off Phuket on the morning of May 28.

Topping off a week-long journey through the South China Sea, and what was described by one officer as a "dedicated maritime maneuver" through the Strait of Malacca, the 5,000-strong crew, including about 400 US Marines, relished Phuket and its many offerings through to Friday, May 31, after which the ship was expected to depart.

With some 5,000 US sailors, both men and women, taking shore leave over the four day period, the *Gazette* estimated that the amount of extra 'dough' that was infused into the local economy was no less than one million dollars – or about 29.9 million baht by today's exchange rate.

This estimate would have been realized had each of the crew members spent at least US\$200, on average, or about 6,000 baht.

This shouldn't have been too difficult, judging from the scene last Tuesday morning at Makham Bay, where eager sailors, many of whom had waited in line for hours to come ashore, didn't even bat an eyelid at the vendors asking 300 baht for a large bottle of beer (60 baht retail).

A handful more, notably higher ranking and paid officers, were more than willing to skip the 250 meter long queue for the group bus, opting instead for a private taxi ride into town.

Even if the average per-head spending of the seamen and women was only US\$100 (3,000 baht), the local economy would still have been bloated with US\$500,000 – 15 million baht.

It wasn't all R&R for the US Navy, who continues to live up to its reputation for making a positive impact in all the places it visits – Phuket is no exception.

During a media tour last Tuesday of the 45-year-old nuclear powered, floating city, Rear Admiral Michael S White told the *Gazette* that of the crew members, about 400 would engage in voluntary community service, or COMSERV projects.

At least 13 community relations activities were organized in coordination with the local Navy League Phuket (NLP), officially known as the Thailand Southern Seaboard Council.

"We've been able to plan some special events for our sailors. They will spend some time at learning centers and schools with a close interaction with the Thai people."

"I think there may even be a soccer game. It is very rewarding for our sailors and I hope it repays, in a small way, the hospitality you show us each time we visit," the commander continued.

"The US Navy maintains a strong presence in the region, and we've been treaty allies with Thailand for nearly 60 years."

Admiral White noted some of the routine exercises that the US and Thai militaries join in every year, including events like Cobra Gold and Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, also dubbed CARAT.

"The Royal Thai Navy are exceptional mariners and we enjoy sailing with them. The Nimitz strike group is on a routine



The crew of US Navy and Marines spent four days in Phuket before departing back to sea.



Rear Admiral Michael S White said that his favorite thing about Thailand is its food.



FLOATING CITY: The nuclear-powered supercarrier, USS Nimitz, seen here off of Phuket, was laid down in 1968, launched in 1972 and commissioned in 1975. Photos: Steven Layne

deployment, and we will spend our time in the region to promote security, stability and peace.

"And we will also take advantage of our time to exercise with our partners," he said.

Clarifying the US Navy's prime imperative in the region, the commander said: "We are very interested in improving our interoperability to respond to natural disasters and provide humanitarian assistance [and] to conduct search and rescue and aid those at distress [out] at sea."

"The better we communicate and sail

together, the more responsive we can be.

"Thailand is a favorite destination of our sailors [because of] the natural beauty of the islands, the amazing culture, and my favorite, the food."

Asked about the USS Nimitz's current tour, Commander White said that the ship is about two months into a six-and-a-half-month-long deployment.

"After we leave Phuket, we'll continue to sail in the Indian and Pacific Oceans before returning home to Everett, Washington in the late fall," he concluded.

Expose your biz through FC sponsorship

SPONSORSHIP experts, Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd, will represent the island's pro soccer team, Phuket FC in the club's drive to find new sponsors for the second half of the 2013 season and beyond.

The team is offering three tiers of sponsorship packages as follows: The first tier comprises a Main Shirt Sponsor, which will give the company or organization rights to the jerseys' most prominent logo, as well as a Stadium Sponsor.

Although the club's home ground is currently Surakul Stadium on Wichit Songkhram Road in Phuket Town, the stadium naming rights applies to the club's new training facility on Chao Fa West road, not Surakul Stadium.

"Surakul Stadium is owned by the government, but in the future, if the club decides to change its home ground, the Stadium Sponsors will have the naming rights [for the new stadium]," explained Udomporn Phanjindawan

of Paul Poole.

Previous Main Shirt Sponsors include the OrBorJor Phuket, Leo (beer brand) and Yamaha.

The second tier will include Club Co-sponsors, of which the team is looking to partner with up to four entities from non-competing categories, including the kit manufacturer, as well as up to four Stand Sponsors.

The third and final tier will comprise Official Partners and Media Partners – from different industries that can provide supplies and media support for the club.

These include partners in the following sectors: Banks & Financial Services; Sports Drink / Soft Drink; Auto; Airline; Courier; Clothing; Travel & Tourism / Destination; Recruitment; Mobile Network / Mobile Handset; Ticketing and TV / Radio / Press / Internet.



LOYAL: Phuket FC, the Islanders.

Tailored to suit differing needs, the packages will enable businesses to integrate their own marketing initiatives with those of Phuket FC and will allow them to reach a global audience.

Paul Poole, an independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, with a Southern office in Phuket, specializes in commercial sponsorship and partnership marketing, working with both rights holders and brands.

The popularity of football makes it the ideal platform for companies in Asia to increase their brand awareness.

Nicknamed the Islanders, Phuket FC is a Thai professional football club, competing in the Kingdom's first division, Yamaha League One (YL1) – a tier down from the Thai Premier League

(TPL). The club has set a goal to finish as one of the top three teams in the YL1 this season, and thus get promoted to the TPL.

Formed in 2009 and based in Phuket, Phuket FC gained promotion to Thai Division 1 after finishing runners-up of Thai Division 2 in 2010. As a new club, Phuket FC's fan base is growing quickly attracting approximately 5,000 fans to every home game and 16,000 plus followers on the official club Facebook page. Sponsorship of the club offers a great opportunity to target these fans.

Football has a long history in Thailand, having been introduced to the country in 1897.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For a Commercial Sponsorship and Partnership Opportunities Executive Summary please contact Udomporn Phanjindawan on 086 382 9949 or udomporn@paulpoole.co.th, or dial +66 2622 0605-7. Also, see phuketfootballclub.com

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AEC will bring opportunities, threats to Thai, Asean citizens

THE Asean Economic Community (AEC) to be established in 2015, creates a huge potential for the streamlined flow of labor, goods and services, and investment capital. However, along with such opportunity there are also potential threats which Thailand has to be aware of and address. It is my concern that Thailand is not doing enough to prepare and confront these threats in order to fully exploit the possible benefits arising from its entry into the wider Asean market.

The fact that both the goods and services markets will be larger means that there are more opportunities available for both Thai business entrepreneurs and workers. Thailand has a domestic market of approximately 63 million people, but after the AEC, this market will effectively increase to about 600 million people. Asean succeeds in reducing taxes and tariffs, this will have a considerable advantage to businesses seeking new consumers, as well as increasing economies of scale. For example, Myanmar, where Thai products such as sodas and coffee are already widely sold, should be at the top of the list for Thai businesses seeking to invest. Myanmar has abundant natural resources, oil and natural gas, which also adds to its attraction as an investment market.

Moreover, both Thai corporations and migrant workers may be able to adopt new technology and management techniques, for example, those of Singapore and

Common Cents Opinion

Japan. Competitive Thai workers will also be able to seek employment abroad, where higher payments are guaranteed, which will lead to a higher living standard.

On the contrary, uncompetitive companies especially the SMEs are likely to lose their market shares to larger foreign corporations. In addition, since Thailand's minimum wage rate has risen to 300 Baht, investors would likely change their focus to countries like Myanmar, Laos, or Cambodia where overall production cost is lower. This could lead to a high unemployment rate in Thailand.

At the same time, highly skilled Thai laborers, particularly engineers and doctors, would be likely to seek work in countries like Singapore, where wages and living standards are higher. This brain-drain phenomenon would have long-term negative effects on Thailand's development.

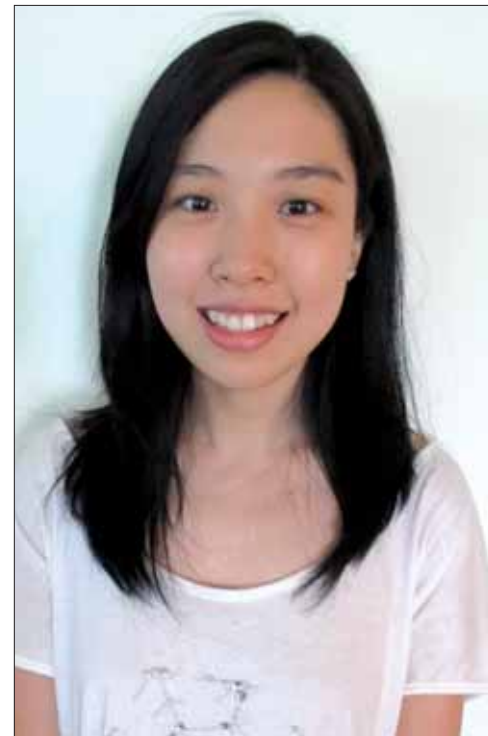
Thailand may also have to deal with a lack of unskilled laborers in certain industries. For instance, fishery and construction industries in Thailand rely a great deal on Burmese laborers. If the Burmese government succeeds in creating new jobs within the country, over 800,000 legal migrants and an estimated one million illegal Burmese migrant workers could leave to find employment within their home country. In this case, Thailand would have to

come up with persuasive measures to motivate these laborers to stay such as higher wages or public welfare benefits.

What Thailand needs to do in order to benefit from the AEC is develop its people potential as well as encourage and support its business entrepreneurs to explore new opportunities and invest in other Asean countries. Thai workers and investors also need to develop proficiency in English or in the other Asean languages. Increased technology skills, together with fundamental knowledge regarding other Asean countries are also imperative to Thailand's success.

Workers will have to improve their skills and training to be more competitive and mobile, especially in seven key high-skill industries (medicine, dentistry, nursing, engineering, architecture, natural, resources and geographical exploration, and accounting) that Asean has identified.

In conclusion, Asean should as well focus on the protection of laborers and foreign investment. It has to widen the range of work permits available and better protect foreign workers in all industries. Thailand and other Asean countries should also work towards signing bilateral protection agreements, since it would take a great deal of time and effort for Asean to reach an agreement. Furthermore, Asean countries must seek improve their citizens' civil and social ties to successfully co-operate and act as a cohesive economic entity on the global stage.



Ms Namsai just completed a two-month internship at the *Phuket Gazette*.

Namsai "Aom" Wongsaree, 23, graduated from Thammasart University with a first class honor in BA in Political Science where she majored in International Affairs. She completed an internship at the Thai Consulate General in Shanghai. Now, as a Thai Government Scholarship recipient, she will be studying MA in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School, Tufts University in the United States.

If you have an opinion, view or forecast about the economy – macro or micro – and are qualified to give it, then email the Gazette's Business desk on: swlayne@phuketgazette.net, with 'Common Cents' in the subject line

Educational arbitrage

I THINK everyone would agree that a big part of long term financial planning is saving for their children's university fees, which continue to reach more and more astronomical heights. However, very few people realize there are many ways to greatly reduce these costs without reducing your child's value on the job market. Arbitrage usually refers to buying a security cheaply on one exchange while simultaneously selling on a different exchange where it trades at a higher price. Nowadays textbook arbitrage plays are hard to find and the big institutions use very complex methods to try and achieve arbitrage profits – but when it comes to education prices, arbitrage possibilities are abound.

When it comes to life-planning

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

it is often said that one needs to begin with the end in mind. I think this is true with education as well. For instance, if you would like to see your children educated to the graduate degree level, there are many routes to get to the same institution and graduating class. The total cost of getting through from kindergarten to a Master's degree is not going to be cheap in any case, but going about it in different ways can drastically reduce the total amount.

Encourage your kid and you may also be delightfully surprised to receive sports or scholastic schol-

arships. I am not a big believer on pushing kids too hard, and it is important to let kids follow their passions as well as their strengths. Obviously scholarships can't be relied upon solely, but apply for them at every opportunity.

Where I see the possibility of generating real savings, is using the method of increasing the 'cost level' of education gradually throughout the entire education process. This is what I call educational arbitrage. Even without an IB international diploma, a child could graduate from a Thai school with an English program and still study abroad. Spending some time on testing your child's strengths and weaknesses throughout his early years can pay big dividends if you get him or her tutoring where they need it.

Prepping your kid to score off the charts on standardized testing such as the SAT exam is something that should start early. While I think these kinds of test are over-rated and easily gamed, admissions staff the world over rely heavily on them to distinguish between applicants.

Transferring credits is the real key to big savings. If a parent is an American for example, the child could go to the states and work for a year to gain residency in a given state and then attend a very low cost community college. I myself first got a two year associates degree in business from a local US community college. These credits are then transferred to a bigger name four year university and you



UNIVERSITY EDUCATION: Managing the cost of your child's university education should be part of a long-term education plan. Photo: David Herholz

end up with the same degree as everyone else at half the price! Most countries have rules that you can use to your advantage with a little creative thinking.

I realize there is a difference between a degree and an education, but I graduated *summa cum laude* and am sure I left my four year school with a much better education than many of my classmates who spent all four years there. The difference comes from effort, and that is something that needs to come from intrinsic motivation, which I believe is a result of being brought up properly by your parents. Throwing money at a school isn't a replacement for spending time with your children and instilling good values, although, maybe I am old-fashioned.

If your child gets good grades in a mid-range university and does well on standardized tests, then when it comes to graduate school he or she will be able to choose among the top schools. This in my opinion is where your education

will be "judged" by the job market. If you graduated from Harvard, nobody is going to care what kind of middle or high school you went to. Work experience, a global outlook, languages spoken, and many other factors will also affect your child's chances.

Obviously, if paying a top international school's fees doesn't cramp your style then I am not saying this isn't ideal, but for many expats in Phuket, this is not a choice. If this is the case, don't fret, there are many ways to get your child educated to a standard where his or her opportunities in the world will not be limited. It just requires creative planning and careful monitoring to make sure your child is proficient in all of the required areas.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. Email david.m@faramond.com or call 085-335-8573.



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New On On cherishes old memories

By Leslie Porterfield

THE On On Hotel on Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town is now a place you could recommend to your mother. Gone are the cars parked in the atrium, the scary hallways, the worn-out bedrooms whose appearance in the film 'The Beach' made it the world's most famous dive and a magnet for backpackers. The renovation of the hotel, which has transformed it into an upscale city oasis, honors every part of its past, including the backpackers.

The founder of the On On, the grandfather of the current owner, Anurak Tansiriroj, never set out to be a hotelier. He was a trader in the days when Phuket was a thriving mining community. Realizing that visiting business men needed a place to put up for a night or two, "He had a vision," said Kyaw Kyaw Khine, the hotel manager, and decided to build a hotel in Phuket Town.

An architect was commissioned from Penang to design the hotel in a Sino-Portuguese style and oversee the construction. When it

opened in 1929 it had five rooms that went for 80 satang a night.

Eight decades later, when the time came to renovate, the reins were handed over to The Treasury Village Group, a Bangkok company that operates two other properties in the area. They sent a management team back to Penang to draw inspiration from boutique hotels in historic buildings.

They found answers to a couple of problems that come with the Sino-Portuguese territory.

What do you do when you have a big hole in the center of your building which brings in light and breeze, but also rain?

You build a gorgeous red-tiled courtyard with a pond in the middle

of it and spend a million baht creating an underground drainage field to keep it from flooding.

And what do you do for views when your building is narrow and deep, and hemmed in on

each side by other buildings?

You look inward, and use your beautiful courtyard and open second floor walkways and lounges to create a magical space with multiple views: the sky



One of the new private rooms.



RUSTIC CHIC: The founder's abacus is on display behind the front desk, where vintage luggage, lamps and furniture set a historic tone. Photos: The Treasury Village Group



peeking in here, glimpses of tree-tops over there, a cobalt blue wall and terra cotta roof tiles. You blur the notions of inside and outside.

From the street, the On On looks much the same, but inside the three large entrance doors the old restaurant, driveway and tour center have given way to cool dark lounges, buffers from the bright outside world.

The owner wanted to preserve the building, the place of his ancestors' history, said Waralee

Thitivorn, director of Creative and Brand and Procurement manager of the Treasury Village Group.

The design theme takes us back to the founder's time, with floral tile floors, dark wood furniture, vintage luggage at the front desk and a trader's weights and the founder's own abacus behind it.

The hotel's two grand staircases are still intact. One leads to dorm rooms, the other to private rooms.

The early traders probably wouldn't feel out of place in one

of the spacious, high-ceilinged private rooms upstairs, once they finished puzzling over the flat screen TV, refrigerator, rain shower and thick mattress.



Leonardo stayed in a bedroom like this one in the movie 'The Beach'.

The rooms effuse a sense of history, from the subdued gray paint and the wide-planked wood floors to the short-legged Chinese chairs and rotary phone by the bed.

"We tried to keep the Chinese design element in as many...

Continued on Page 14



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Secure your home by phone

FOR many property owners in Phuket, security is a constant concern. If you are heading overseas or off-island for travel or business, there was previously no way to monitor your property while you were away. To increase their home security and personal convenience, many people are now turning to the increasingly affordable home automation and security products that have entered the market in recent years.

These new products take advantage of our ever-increasing use of smartphones and tablets, by allowing home owners to monitor their property from anywhere in the world – you can even turn appliances and lights on/off at the touch of your finger.

The *Gazette's* Mark Knowles spoke to Alarms Phuket Services owner Franck Chaudron about these home automation systems and the benefits they can provide to home owners.

Phuket Gazette: How long have you been in this business and what can you tell us about your home automation and security systems?

Franck Chaudron: It has been over three years since I created the company 'Alarms Phuket Services' and we specialize in the sale and installation of alarm systems and CCTV cameras for property security.

Our goal is to offer quality products at the right price with good service for our customers. Our reputation is made on our seriousness and availability.

For some years I watched the home automation industry and the products they were developing. Wanting to be able to offer my customers a quality product, I spent a lot of time researching what was out there.

After much research, I finally found a very interesting range of products, that were available at a fair price for everyone. These products are French and the company has years of experience in the world of the alarms and have now moved

into home automation.

We live in a world where everything is fast communication, where information is paramount. So these home automation products are a natural evolution of existing alarm and monitoring systems.

These days, there are more and more thieves targeting villas so it is more important than ever to secure your family and property.

What are the key benefits to home automation?

Home automation is there to simplify your daily existence. You can control your villa, apartment or office by computer, smartphone or tablet from anywhere in the world. I think that the key benefits of a home automation system are as follows:

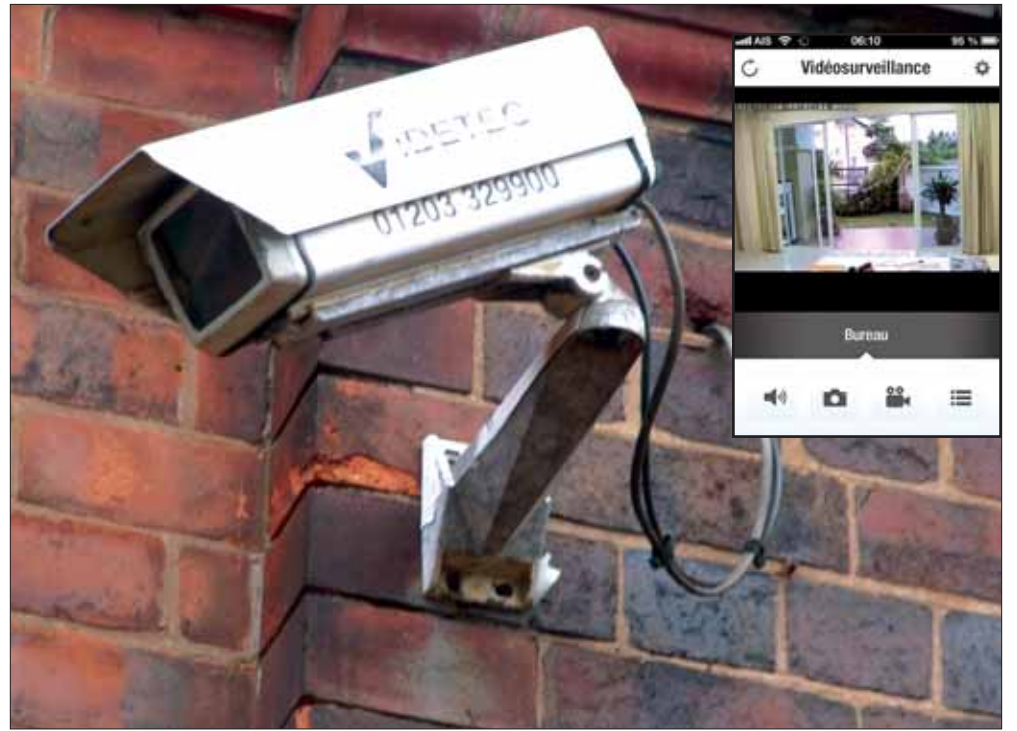
Security – protection of people with a high-end control panel which detects intrusions, smoke, or other domestic risks. With these intelligent alarm systems, you are perfectly safe. You can rest easy, because it will watch over your family. It works even when you are at home and helps deter burglars from the start.

Video – stay in touch with your home where ever you are. With video monitoring on your handheld device, you can see when the children return home, see visitors or your housekeeper and check that all is well in your absence.

Power control – you can remotely turn your lights on or off, simulate presence by switching on lights or other appliances such as stereo systems and even control individual electrical outlets. As you can see, these are just a few ideas to make life more pleasant and efficient.

How difficult is the process of installing the system and what is involved?

The installation of a system only takes a few hours to setup each of the detectors. Everything works wirelessly. There are no cables, no screws and no holes.



REMOTE SECURITY: With new home automation security systems, you can monitor your home on your mobile device from anywhere in the world. Photo: Max Klingensmith

How easy is it to control the system remotely, and what is involved?

You can control your alarm with a remote control, a keyboard, a computer, a smart-phone or tablet. Camera feeds can be viewed directly and home automation, such as lighting can all be directed from your device. All the controls are simple to learn and easy to use.

What are the price ranges involved when automating your home?

We have several packages. The price, for a single alarm is 18,000 baht. We have a 'Security Evolution' alarm package for less than 50,000 baht, which comes with more features, including an indoor and outdoor siren, one camera and detectors for doors or windows.

For less than 13,000 baht you can

control your lights or electrical outlets with a central panel and two outlets. The price for connecting two sockets with the remote control system is 1,500 baht.

All these packages can be tailored to individual needs by adding accessories, such as more sensors or cameras.

What is it about your product that makes it different from other products on the market?

The difference is that we have a very wide range of products to create a complete, tailored system, at a price affordable for every budget.

For more information about automating your home contact Franck at Alarms Phuket Services on: 085 798 9469 or email contact@alarms-phuket-services.com

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On On Hotel modernizes

From Page 13

...features as possible," said Ms Thitivorn, pointing out the drawer knobs, amenities box and no-smoking sign.

Some private rooms, including Mr DiCaprio's in 'The Beach', number 204, have French doors leading to small terraces. Though the view is of a wall, potted plants give a gardeny feel and provide privacy from the next-door guest who shares the terrace. On our visit, we saw a bird in his nest amid the foliage.

The list price of the private rooms is 2,400 to 5,400 baht, with generous discounts available during the soft-opening period.

The dorm rooms, which are accessed via the front staircase, are both co-ed and female-only, and cost 400 and 500 baht during the soft opening period.

Former backpacker guests of the hotel have walked in, Mr Khine said, and complained that the rooms are too expensive.

Previously, a standard fan room without a bathroom cost 180 baht.

But Mr Khine invites them to see the dorm rooms, offers a discounted price, and they end up staying.

And it's no wonder. The rooms are large and the bunk beds wide; each with its own electrical outlet, reading light, and curtain

ceramic sinks and private rain showers behind frosted glass doors.

Of the remodeling, Ms Thitivorn said, "We wanted to reuse some of the original materials, but most of them were too old. We had to reinforce all the supporting columns and lay new wood floors upstairs."

But some original elements remain – the staircases, for one, and the tile floor in a second storey lounge. And some roof tiles were salvaged and relocated to where they can easily be seen.

The redecorating is not complete yet, nor is the restaurant next door. All should be in order by the time of the grand opening in October, set to coincide with the vegetarian festival.

It's not just the building that has changed, but the name as well – it's now The Memory at On On Hotel. Like all the best memories, it has held on to the good while forgetting the bad.

For additional information, visit thememoryhotel.com, or email info@thememoryhotel.com or call 076-216161



The newly renovated central courtyard and pond.

for privacy. There is also a communal kitchen area with cute dishware and a large TV room.

It is the bathrooms, though, that are the most extraordinary part of the dorm option; they are luxurious, with emerald hued

Hotels scoop top awards

THE elite of the Asian hospitality industry gathered at the Shangri-la Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on May 10 to hear the long-anticipated results of the Asia Pacific Hotel Awards.

The Erawan Phuket Co Ltd and The Naka Island, A Luxury Collection Resort and Spa – Phuket, proudly accepted awards for Best Resort Hotel Thailand and Best Spa Hotel Thailand 2013-2014, respectively.

Each company was announced as either a 'Highly Commended' or '5-Star' winner.

The International Hotel Awards has 16 categories and up to three 5-star awards for each category are awarded on a national level before going on to compete on a regional level.

In addition to categories for several types of specialty hotels and categories by hotel size, there are also categories for hotel architecture, construction, interior design, marketing and website.

The regional winners, which were announced at the close of the awards gala, will go on to compete in the International Final 'World's Best' Hotel Awards.

The gala event will be hosted in London this coming November, to coincide with the World Travel Market.

They will compete against other regional winners from Africa, Arabia, Europe, UK and the Americas to find the ultimate 'World's Best' in each category.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Examining what makes a home

A GOOD home is neither expensive nor one with a strictly Feng Shui-oriented design. Instead, it is one that meets the needs of the inhabitants perfectly and does not go against the architectural principles or the weather conditions of the location.

Other points that mark a quality home are neatness and attention to detail in terms of composition, design and aesthetics. In other words, a good home has character, offers comfort, is in harmony with the environment and is built with quality materials.

In terms of character, the primary concern is shape – be it typically square or in free form. Shape dictates the layout of the house, the number of storeys and shape of the roof. The roof also offers an insight into the local culture and weather conditions.

The second-most-important factor is the style of openings, windows or doors that invite light into the house and act as ventilation outlets. The shape, form and position of the doors and windows are important to the look of the home, since an opening of the wrong size or position will immediately reduce the value of the house.

The last and most important factor, in terms of character, is the exterior and details such as a roof over a terrace or dormer windows. These details make your home distinctive.

A good home needs to offer comfort, which is a result of design that is harmonious with usage and does not go against human behavior. First, the design should invite people in, offer an easy flow of movement and easy access to everything.

Second, comfort comes in the form of a special corner inside or outside the home that all inhabitants can enjoy. For instance, a dining room that opens into the garden, a comfortable chair by the window, or a



STAND OUT: Exterior details like a steep roof make a home distinctive. Photo: Undazair



A good home has character and offers comfort, among other things. Photo: Jeda Villa Bali

back-yard corner for an afternoon nap.

Harmony relates to design that takes into account the positioning of the house in correspondence with the geography so it is in harmony with the environment.

The nature of materials used for the exterior or the roof of the house should also contribute to the beauty of the surroundings.

The use of quality materials is important because a house is a long-term asset that should appreciate in time. Hence, the use of durable materials is necessary. Things such as the floor finish require special attention, since different materials are

required in different parts of the house. For instance, ceramic and stone floors are required for heavy-duty space and wooden floors offer warmth in private zones such as bedrooms. Similarly, surfaces and other visible details also require close attention.

Therefore, a good home does not necessarily need a static blueprint, but rather careful selection and care for details by the house owner and designer.

But most important, the house needs to reflect and support the lifestyle and aesthetics of the owner.

– *The Nation*

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Beach blanket bingo at Bongo

Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

I CAN hear the distant pounding of bongos in the night. Of course, once you get passed 50, there is the sudden moment of terror and then the notion your heart is going to thump, thump, thump you right into the afterlife. Are there bongos in heaven or hell?

But no, it's definitely bongo madness out there somewhere in the dark. Switching TV channels. I come upon the late night classic – *Night of the Iguana*. Dark, exotic and with a twist from a case of tropical dengue fever. Wiping off my profusely sweating palms, I've simply got to try to regain some equilibrium after my imagined near death experience.

My 'bongoness' goes back to those beach party movies of the 1960s with Frankie and Annette. A hipster bongo player in classic Ray Ban shades, wearing a beatnik beret and smoking clove cigarettes. Bongo drums actually were born in the tropics and their origins can be traced back to the Afro-Cuban musical culture.

There is good news for those who missed out on all that bongo-bongo in the past, as this July Twinpalms Phuket is rolling out their all new sandlot entertainment zone on Surin B (formerly known as Surin Beach; but we are elevating the vibe). All we need now to take us higher is Ike and Tina.

Anyway, located just a hop, skip and a jump away from Catch is the new Bimi + Bongo. Bimi + Bongo Beach Club is set to take on a decided Euro-Ibiza feel, and taking on the hashtag as Phuket's only All Day Party venue. Sexy sounds of the sandbox, with DJ's going from 10 to 10, morning to night.

Next door will be the Bongo Rum Bar. Reggae and other chill sounds will be tapped in a more laid back hang out. And yes, for those of you who have been in Thailand too long, reggae in fact goes past those 12 classic, yet overplayed, Bob Marley songs you hear at nearly every local music joint. You might even want to grab a pair of bongos and join in?

Further north along Surin B is the locale for the upcoming Zazada. This is the brainchild of the luxury Paresa Resort on millionaires-mile in Kamala. Taking a stroll down the sandbox the other day, I was amazed to see the scale of the place. Combining a restaurant, swimming pool and bar – this place is huge.

Scot Toon at Paresa told me he expected Zazada to roll out this August and along with providing a unique oceanfront location, events such as weddings will be a key part of the business. Suddenly, by the middle of this year, Surin B is taking on a whole new feel.

While the typical response from a few local expats has been that pricing and too many tourists will keep them away, in certain ways the new products are likely to induce upscale visitors to Phuket in the same way the trendiness of Bali's uber-cool Seminyak does.

Despite all this Surin talk, I'd expect other nearby areas like Bang Tao and Kamala to get into the ring soon. While we can't say who or where, let's just leave it at this – there will be two large international branded outlets coming up in these areas which are going to raise the bar even higher.

All in all, change is good, Bimi + Bongo and even a late night Zazada – Surin B certainly is the new Sultan of Swing.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com



SULTAN OF SWING: The Paresa Resort's new Zazada beach bar on Surin Beach is set to open in August this year.

Singapore property market robust

SOUND business opportunities remain in Singapore's property development market, with demand set to rise further on the back of Asia's growing prominence in the global economy, according to a major player.

While Singapore's recent measures to tame residential speculation signal overheating, Warren Bishop, CEO of Raffles Quay Asset Management (RQAM) – developer of Marina Bay Financial Center (MBFC) – said that local demand, which made up for half of the residential tower sales, is unaffected. Other demand for the residential tower last year was from Malaysia, China, Indonesia and Hong Kong. Demand for office space is also strong, as Singapore's connectivity to the world is unaffected by the global crisis.

After completing the four billion Singapore dollar (95.1 billion baht) mixed-use development, which comprises two residential and three office buildings, RQAM is waiting for the Singaporean government



Government land releasing policies are credited with the growth of the office space market in downtown Singapore. Photo: Someformofhuman

to release new land plots for development.

"The market is quite robust. The long-term market is stable as Singapore is established as the location for headquarters in Southeast Asia," Bishop said.

While Hong Kong's office market serves business in North Asia, Singapore benefits largely from growth in Southeast Asia. Increasing demand in Indonesian commodities has sparked huge office demand in Singapore among new companies establishing a first-time presence in Southeast Asia.

The Singaporean government's policy will contribute to the property market's growth, Bishop said.

Starting with the reclamation of land for Marina Bay to create a new downtown about 20 years ago, Singapore has introduced new rules to attract financial institutions and non-financial companies to set up regional offices. The new central business district, where MBFC is the landmark, is to support those companies' relocation.

– The Nation

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(Required) (Required)

Keeping pace with disaster

THE construction of a wall along Kamala Beach that could be a barrier during an emergency evacuation (see pages 4-5) once again highlights the need for constant vigilance and above all, common sense in the never-ending preparation for a tsunami or other natural disaster.

Few places on Phuket were hit harder than Kamala, where the bathymetry and onshore topography allowed the surging seawater to extend some two kilometers inland, destroying just about everything in its path except, in thought-provoking irony, most trees.

Sadly, other hard-hit areas with similar topography like Patong and Khao Lak in Phang Nga had also attracted some of the densest concentrations of resorts and tourist-related businesses.

With the 10-year anniversary of the disaster approaching, we can all sleep better at night knowing that a warning system is in place around the island and ready to sound, probably well in advance, should another tsunami threaten our shoreline.

As this past week's emergency training exercises (see page 4) have shown, the many agencies involved in emergency response appear better trained and equipped than they were in 2004.

This is due not only to increased awareness and better budgets, but also to hands-on training developed during the 2004 event itself and during subsequent tsunami scares, especially the one that followed the largest earthquake ever recorded in Phuket in April 2012.

That event exposed a variety of serious flaws in our preparedness mechanisms, especially the woeful inability of the state-run media to keep a panicked public informed of events in real time.

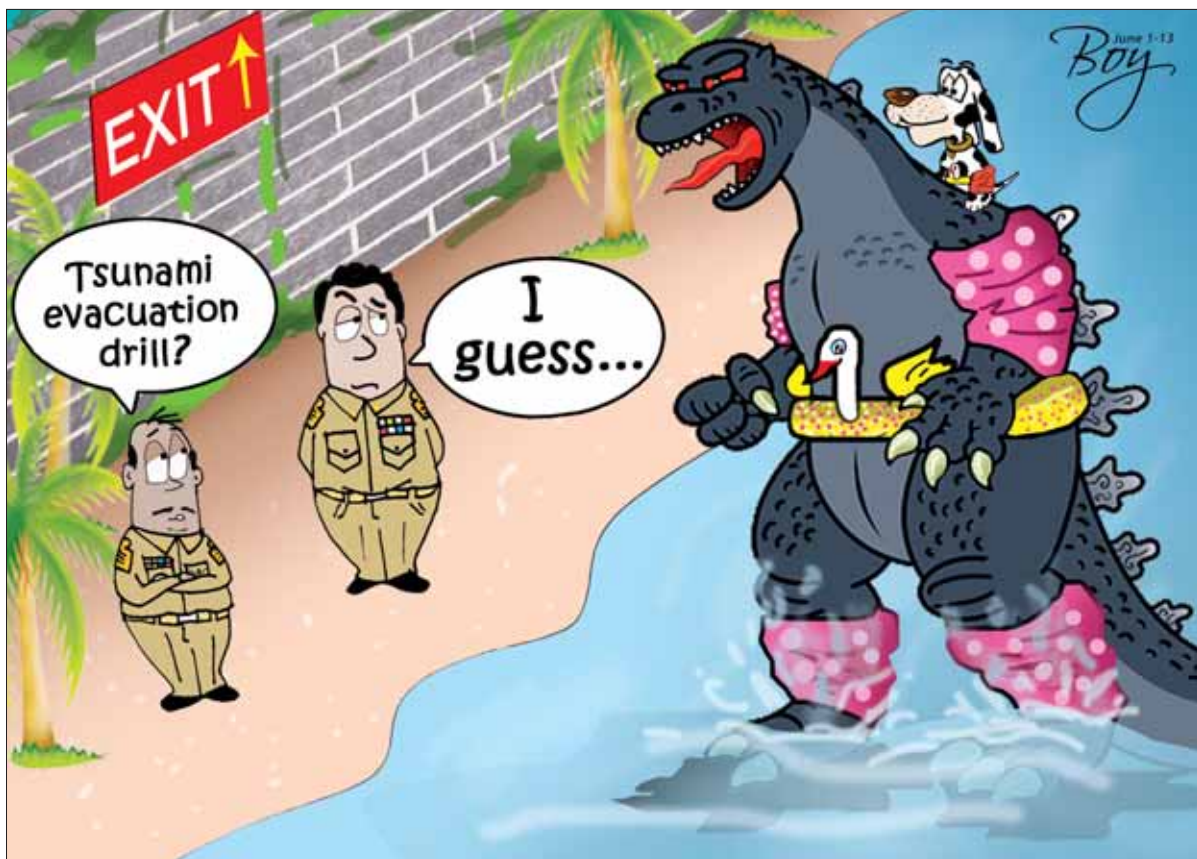
There are other weaknesses in the system.

In 2004, Karon was largely spared from inland devastation due to its large and healthy dunes. Since then, many sections of this natural barrier have been destroyed by heavy machinery working on projects authorized or carried out by the local administration. Similar situations can be found in many places on the island, where tourism-related businesses are encroaching on coastal land.

The government is rather uncreative in its evacuation exercises, which are inevitably based on a theoretical tsunami with the same causes and characteristics as the 2004 event.

If such a twin tsunami were to hit the island, it seems likely that many more lives would be saved than the first time around. However, due to a virtual tsunami of greed-driven, poorly regulated development over the past decade, property damage would probably be far greater.

But disasters are, by definition, unpredictable, and if we do not prepare for the unexpected, the results we face may be devastating.



Snakes didn't use to be a big deal

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Python excites early morning Patong crowd, May 24

A rare sight now, but Patong was full of snakes 20 plus years back. I even had a python given to me by some builders.

Unlike the ones you see on the telly, this one wasn't for a life in captivity, so after it bit through my welder's gloves we climbed up into what used to be jungle at the back of Soi Nanai and let him go.

This big bugger might even be him. Welcome back, Sid, daddy missed you, and be careful – sadly, Patong's now full of human snakes, lad.

Randolph
Gazette Forum

Praise for the driver who stayed behind

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tourist hits pedestrian on Thepkasattri Road, May 20

I was amazed (and delighted) to read that [the driver did not leave the scene of the accident].

And I hope Mr Areef Janchu, if found by the police to be at fault in this case, will receive at least some consideration for his honorable behaviour at the scene.

PG Reader
Gazette Forum

First aid for vendors

Re: Gazette online, Phuket shop owners urge mayor to reverse parking ban, May 23

There's no denying that the traffic there is dreadful. Unlike Mission Hospital, Vachira doesn't seem to provide parking at all.

Parking could be banned from 7am to 10am and from 4pm till 7pm to stop congestion. But then police would actually have to do their job in the area and fine offenders.

There is land opposite the hospital that someone pro-active

Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion to voice?
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

could turn into paid parking, or that a pro-active government could utilize.

Chob
Gazette Forum

Guidelines for guides

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Do you speak Zulu? May 26

Any foreigner willing to work as a tour guide should be able to speak Thai and the language of the foreigners they are in charge of, and have a knowledge of Thai history and geography.

So any foreigner able to pass an official test in speaking, reading and writing Thai and another test about Thai history and geography, should be able to get a work permit as a tour guide in Thailand.

Whistle-Blower
Gazette Forum

Keep it up Gazette

Re: Gazette online, Mob violently bounces Aussies from Kangaroo Bar, May 24

Although I don't like to see this behavior going on, it does and I think it is important to have it in the news.

I get upset when other countries, like Australia, tell their citizens not to go to Thailand because of the crime but they don't see how some of their own citizens behave when they are here.

I have a guest house and have had Australian guests who have been embarrassed by the actions of their countrymen.

Your articles about the Russian operated businesses taking work

away from the Thais are also beneficial to the Thai people.

One more thing, keep on reporting the environmental issues. Having it in the news appears to be a real motivator for the government here!

Thank you for the good work you do, many residents appreciate it.

Phyllis Walters
Kamala

I was abducted too

Re: Phuket Gazette, Fears of Island Abductions, May 25

I could relate to this story. I am Mexican, on my 4th visit to Phuket in 4 years, and every single time I get this unexpected stop at a tour agency even though I always pay for a private taxi.

The first time I was held there for 20 minutes. They asked for my passport, hotel destination and also wanted to book my taxi for the return to the airport. If you have just arrived in paradise, the last thing you want to think about is your departure.

The subsequent times, including two days ago, I just pretended I didn't speak English.

This is a very serious matter – it puts a sour flavor on the holiday, especially for a first-time visitor—and it should definitely stop.

Gabriel del Castillo
Phuket

Using taxi methods

Re: Gazette online, Phuket illegal taxi drivers stalk Governor, demand resolution, May 22

Time for all illegal tour guides and illegal foreign workers to protest also. Maybe this will enable five more of them to work than the law allows.

So they too will be able to work legally and illegally at the same time.

Frank Heise
Gazette Forum

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News Editor: Isaac Stone Simonelli
News Manager: Chris Husted
Features Editor: Steven W. Layne

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat
Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net
Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net
Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net
Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net
Events Sponsorship: events@phuketgazette.net
General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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Coordinate manpower to corral illegal taxis

FIRST PERSON

WE HAVE received many complaints about taxis – about drivers who refuse to pick up passengers; who don't turn on the meter; who abandon passengers during the trip; who are impolite to passengers; and who drive illegal taxis.

The problems are ongoing in Phuket, but I'm confident they won't be hard to solve if relevant organizations work together to tackle them. I'm absolutely sure we can stamp out these problems, but we need the cooperation of the taxi companies and we also need to strictly enforce the law in order to control the drivers.

The first thing we need to do is have all concerned organizations meet together to improve our understanding of what each groups' plan for attacking the problems is and how those plans can be coordinated to improve efficiency.

Secondly, the taxi company owners have to train their drivers better. The drivers need to be taught the right way to behave when dealing with customers.

Penalties are also an important way to force taxi drivers to follow the law. Currently, penalties are marginal compared to the amount of money drivers make. Drivers aren't worried about the penalties for breaking the law because they can earn a lot of money in a short time serving tourists and can pay the fines easily.

The maximum fine for drivers who refuse to turn on their meters is 1,000 baht and the maximum fine for drivers who operate illegal taxis is 2,000 baht.

The penalties must be higher



Manaporn Likitmanon, a 31-year-old Songkhla native, was a Police Investigator at Samut Sakhon Immigration from 2008 to 2012 before returning south last year to become a Highways Police Inspector covering the tri-province area of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

Here he talks about how to solve the problem of metered and illegal taxis in Phuket.

and have a more significant impact on the drivers who are caught breaking the law.

We use checkpoints to catch taxi drivers illegally conducting business, but the way we've set them up – once a day for two hours in fixed locations – is not very effective. Drivers who have been caught let other drivers know about the checkpoint by calling, radioing or chatting on social networks.

This is why we catch only a few drivers at a time at checkpoints.

Last month at our checkpoint we caught between 10 and 20 drivers who hadn't turned their meters on and five drivers operating "black" taxis – not properly registered vehicles. I think this number is very low when compared to the number of taxi drivers actually violating laws in Phuket.

What we need to do is have checkpoints more than once a day, and we need to set them up at different locations, so drivers won't know about them in advance.

Some people think we should set up checkpoints at the airport itself, but I disagree for two rea-

sons. First, we can't do it unless the airport asks for it, and second, if the taxi drivers know we are there, they'll all follow the rules – I'd rather use a checkpoint to catch the drivers who are the rule-breakers.

I'd also like to send in undercover officers to pose as passengers.

However, like many organizations, we have insufficient manpower to do everything we want to do. In addition to catching traffic-law violators on the road, we're responsible for taking care of special guests who come to the area. This three-province area is very popular and has a lot of special guests, such as those who attended the World Buffalo Congress in early May.

This is another reason we need to cooperate with other departments, to pool our manpower.

We are working with the Phuket Land Transport Office and we also have 30 volunteers helping us with checkpoints and various other projects.

It's important for Phuket's tourist image for taxi drivers to turn on their meters every time and to follow the law.



With the lights out, people had time to be together. Photo: Saran Mitratat

The heart in darkness

Island View

By Winston Gunn

Do you have an opinion to voice?
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

THE island's streets, along with those in the other 13 Southern provinces, were plunged into darkness for a couple of hours on the evening of May 21, due to the Kingdom's biggest power outage in three decades.

The blackout sparked Thai netizens into a conspiracy theory frenzy, with rumors of a terrorist attack to a lightning strike causing the loss of power. Whatever caused the blackout, the darkness that enveloped Phuket for a couple of hours brought some people closer together.

A man in a checked shirt, who could have been an off-duty policeman – though it would be nice to think was merely a helpful citizen – controlled traffic with a torch at the Tesco junction traffic lights on the bypass road.

In Phuket Town, passers-by caught a glimpse of families huddled round candles as doors to shop houses were flung open to allow the cool night breeze in; restaurants that had generators were packed to breaking point and families, friends and neighbors no longer stared at the TV screen, but engaged each other in conversation on the roadside or indoors. The blackout gave Phuket Town an eerie community feel.

The romantic notion would be that the loss of power brought

people closer together.

Admittedly, not everyone would have enjoyed spending a couple of hours in darkness. The roads were unsafe and some business leaders have demanded compensation from authorities for losses due to the massive power outage, but key facilities like the airport and hospitals were not affected as they have emergency power backup generators.

Life on Phuket returned to normal once the power came back on and conversation by candlelight was replaced by families crowding round the TV to find out exactly what had happened. The sound of conversation in the air was replaced by the din of the TV and the beeping of smart phones and tablets.

When asked about the effect of the power outage, the local tourist association said, "The impact of the blackout on everyone, especially the business sector, was big. Two hours for life to stop are too long."

The blackout did not cause life to stop, it gave the island a heart.

Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

Do ambulances have the right-of-way?

WHAT are the rules about yielding to ambulances in Thailand?

I rarely see people giving way. Yesterday an ambulance was behind me flashing its lights, but no one moved.

Do we only have to give way if they are using their sirens? What is the penalty for not giving way?

Just Curious
Koh Kaew

Sarawut Meeboon, Thalung Traffic Police Deputy Superintendent, replies:

By law, when you hear a siren or see flashing lights on an emergency vehicle – a fire truck, police car or ambulance – you must pull over by the side of the road and stop.

Be sure not to block an intersection when you do so.

Even if you just see flashing lights, you have to pull over, because such lights mean an emergency is in progress. The penalty for not doing so is 500 baht.

The law also applies to people riding animals and to buffalo herdsman. They too are required to make way for rescue vehicles.

Pulling over is a way for people to show social responsibility.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Annoyed by Bang Pae guard

OCCASIONALLY, I have to visit some land plots I represent which are located past the entrance to Bang Pae Waterfall [in Pa Khlok, Thalung].

When I visit these plots, even though I have no intention of going to the waterfall, if the guard is not asleep he jumps in front of my car and forces me to stop. Why should I stop? This is a public road.

Swerv
Thalang

Awat Nitikul, chief of the Environmental Conservation Unit based at Phuket's Khao Phra Thaew wildlife sanctuary in Thalung, replies:

The road actually belongs to the Khao Phra Thaew wildlife sanctuary. However, we let people use it to access their land.



Not everyone wants to play at the waterfall. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

The guard probably mistook you for a tourist since you are a foreigner.

If possible, try to let him know that you are not a tourist and that you just want access to

the land plots.

You can also tell the guard that I am aware of this and permit you to pass freely. I don't think there will be any problems once the guard knows who you are.

YOUR Phuket

IB Diploma Special Achievement Awards



At the graduation dinner for the British International School's Class of 2013. From left: Hopelessly proud parent John Magee, BIS IB graduate Natdanai 'Im' Arno; Janpen Arno-Magee, BIS IB candidate Anukul 'Ab' Arno and Design Technology teacher Jeffrey Craigen.



From left to right: British Honorary Consul to Phuket Martin Carpenter, Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, BIS CEO Apiwat Ourairat, Headmaster Neil Richards and his wife Kathy.

Zen Sisters Jewelry launch at The Surin Hotel



From left: Dorothy MacPhearson and Helen Richardson



From left: Dorinda Rose Berry and Debbie Dionysius



Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

Chief District Officer of Thalang, Khun Supot Chanakit (4th from left) and team paid a visit to Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club and were received by Virapol Cholvibul (3rd from left), Thanyapura's Director of Sports Marketing and Nathaphat (Kaye) Asavathanachart (5th from left), MARCOM Manager.

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WHEELS & MOTORS of the week

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet



See page 30

BOAT of the week

SIMPSON
MARINE



See page 31

BUSINESS & SERVICES of the week

PHUKET BABY SITTING



See page 29

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

Thailand's Leading Property Site

 **DDproperty**
.com



See page 25

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1-BEDROOM NEW PATONG TOWER

Newly renovated spacious 1 bedroom apartment on the Beach Road, central Patong. 7th floor. Good rental possibility. 4.4 million baht. Tel: +45-5239 3777. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

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Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

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D CONDO 1, KATHU

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-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
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Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA CONDOS PATONG



New condos. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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1 Ngarn, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



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PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

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CONDO FOR RENT

1 bedroom, at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. Long-term from 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents! Not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

1 bedroom with bathroom, living-room with full western kitchenette. All extras, aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished. Quiet setting near Na Nai. 12,000 baht per month. Please call 084-185 8536 for more information.

WALK TO KATA BEACH

New 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, gorgeous furnished home. 500m to Kata Beach. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

KATA OCEANVIEW APARTMENT

Quiet, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, gym, pool, 24hr security. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

URGENT RENT/ SALE



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

CHEAP KAMALA RENT

New nice house, free internet, 2 aircons, 1 kitchen, 2 bathroom. Need 5-6 month rental. 14,000 baht per month. Urgent. Tel: 081-826 7287.

BUNGALOW RAWAI

1 bedroom, aircon, WiFi, kitchen, TV, large and quiet. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: brico thailand@hotmail.com

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Secure, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 10-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

1 BEDROOM FOR RENT



Fully furnished, 1-bedroom apartment with golf course view in Chalong. 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**

Household
Help

Household Items

Are your favorite TV channels from the UK blocked - BBC, ITV? With the latest software you can have full access today. One-time payment includes free tutorial and guidance. Computer and internet required. Tel: 087-512 3097 (English & Thai). Email: steaminggems@gmail.com

Household
Services

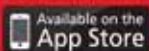
WASTE AND RUBBISH CLEARANCE

Household waste and rubbish clearances. 7 days a week. Let us get rid of ALL your unwanted junk. For further details, please see our website at www.farang-handyman.com

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, built-in construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phuketomemaintenance@yahoo.com

We have more than 140,000 listings.



Hospitality GM for all types of pre-openings from A-Z, also management of resorts, estates, condos, marketing, interim management, feasibility studies. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

We provide services: home and pool renovation, sauna and stream room construction. Tel: 084-191 1288. For further details, please see our website at www.homerenovationphuket.com

Home construction, repairs, renovations at fixed prices. Tel: 081-892 8526 (Khun Peter). For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-bes-thomes.com

Property financing for foreigners. Tel: 081-536 5550. For further details, please see our website at www.hamptonsadvance.com

Property Wanted

Patong (or max 30 mins from Patong), 1-4 rai with Chanote, 20-50 rooms, Sea view (even partial). We offer all guarantees. Email: ppvisseur@hogest.com Please see our website at www.hogest.com

Accommodation Available

Secure, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 10-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

From 450 baht per night. Fully Inclusive. Call or mail for details. Tel: 084-053 4365, 087-896 5219, 090-031 8418 (English & Thai). Email: striker_1957@hotmail.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.
Then hand it to any of our agents.

[illegible]

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

**NEED COOK (FEMALE)
URGENT**

Female cook, breakfast, Thai food and Euro. Urgently needed. Contact me on my mobile (as above). Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

**EVENT/PR
MANAGER**

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is looking for a Thai/Foreign national. Successful candidate will have strong written and verbal English skills. Position can be full or part time, based in Patong. Tel: 076-346927. Fax: 076-346927. Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

**SALES & ADMIN
JUNIOR**

We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-619 0380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

amanpuri
Multi award winning Amanpuri and Amanresorts' flagship property is currently looking for young, energetic and enthusiastic new team member for the following position:

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL CONTROLLER**Qualification:**

- Male or female
- 36 years up
- Year of experience – Financial Controller 1-2 years or Assistant Financial Controller 2-5 years in 4-5 star hotel

Other qualification:

The Assistant financial controller (AFC) will report to the Financial Controller and will be responsible for the accounting operation including monthly closing of accounts, taxation, etc. The AFC will also be required to help manage the implementation of new accounting software. In addition he or she will liaise with external auditors and improve the accounting operations to support the company's business expansion.

The successful candidate will require at least a bachelor's degree in accounting (B.A) with experience in managing a team of finance & accounting staff and have a proven record of accounting software implementation. The successful candidate will need to have good communication skills in both English and Thai, be very flexible and have a positive attitude. The AFC will receive a very attractive salary, medical coverage, life and accident insurance, etc.

We invite qualified Thai nationals to submit their resume stating present salary to the address below:

Amanpuri

118/1 Moo 3 Srisoonthorn Rd. Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: (66) 76 324 333 | Fax: (66) 76 324 100 | E-mail: pn@amanpuri.th.com

**COFFEE & ICE
CREAM**

Vacancies: coffee shop assistant manager, baristas, waiters, bar assistants, experience and English. Tel: 086-276 4914.

STAFF WANTED

Cashier, Waiters, Thai cook, Cleaner. Location: Kata-Karon. Tel: 081-895 5852 (English), 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.com

**ASSISTANT BRANCH
MANAGER**

Phuket Pool Tables is looking for a new assistant branch manager to join our latest branch in Cherng Talay. 20,000 baht + excellent commission. Please send your resume or call us. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

**TEFL QUALIFIED
TEACHERS WANTED**

Full-time/part-time positions available for native English speakers. Tel: 081-083 5735. Email: michael@misterenglishschool.com

**RUSSIAN SALES
CONSULTANT**

Experienced Russian Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Russian required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

**OAK MEADOW
INTERNATIONAL**

The following positions are open in our school:

- Qualified Thai Teacher
 - Cook
 - Cleaning lady
- Tel: 084-847 0732. Email: intlicense@yahoo.com

**DIVE AND
SURF SHOP**

Needs Thai female staff with basic English skills. Tel: 089-874 9147.

**RUSSIAN SALES
CONSULTANT**

Experienced Russian Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Russian required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

KG & P1-3 VACANCIES

ELT Phuket International is looking to appoint 2 qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teachers to start immediately. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate such as TESOL/TEFL. Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: eltorborjor@gmail.com

laGuna
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Laguna Holiday Club, Thailand's premier vacation ownership company is currently seeking passionate and experienced candidates to be part of our team...

- **Sales Representative** (English with Chinese, Arabic and Russian Speaking)
- **Marketing Coordinator** (Thai Nationality)
- **Outside Personal Contact Team Leader** (Thai Nationality)
- **EP Booker** (Thai Nationality)
- **OPC Freelance**
- **EP Booker Freelance**

Have experience in timeshare business for all position, we are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: basic salary, generous commissions, medical coverage, training, etc;

Call for an interview **076-362400** Ext. 4402, 4406
career@lagunaholidayclub.com or sirimab@lagunaholidayclub.com
Visit us at www.lagunaholidayclub.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT (FEATURES DEPARTMENT)

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Able to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Able to do layout and design / willing to learn
- ▶ Basic administrative and secretarial skills (phone, email, word and excel)
- ▶ Interested in local lifestyle, events, business, property and/or sports
- ▶ Owns a digital camera / smartphone
- ▶ Has drivers license and reliable transport

Good salary for the right candidate
Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to swlayne@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatthi Rd, Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: **076-273555** Fax: **076-615240**

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakit is looking for native English speakers to teach English. A degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Please email your cover letter and CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com For info please contact Clarke.

**HOTEL RECEPTIONIST
WANTED**

Thai citizen, aged 21-40, basic computer skills, good spoken English. Salary is 12,000 baht + big commissions on sales. Tel: 076-333079. 080-698 8335, 082-417 9299. Email: iphone.dez@gmail.com

**ASSISTANT BRANCH
MANAGER**

Phuket Pool Tables is looking for a new assistant branch manager to join our latest branch at Cherng Talay. 20,000 baht + excellent commission. Please send your resume or call us. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

MAID / HOUSEKEEPER

Expat (American) requires an experienced housekeeper/maid with good English and Thai speaking ability. Cooking experience a plus and can be live in or live out. Experience letters and recommendations from previous employers are a must. Top notch salary will be paid for the right person! Contact Robert. Tel: 089-765 3126.

**MARKETING & GUEST
RELATIONS**

ApexAsia Group are now recruiting for its marketing & guest relations department to work at one of three hotels in Patong and Karon. Enthusiastic and of smart appearance with good English (written/spoken). Full training will be provided, excellent earning potential. Email Kevin Baker at kevin@apexasia.asia

**ACCOUNTANT FOR
REAL ESTATE**

We are looking for an experienced accountant that can handle government officials and tax related issues. A high salary will be given. Tel: 076-341045. 081-459 0152 (English). Contact us at the number above or send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

- ▶ **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: **076-282254**
- ▶ **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: **076-280400**
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: **076-282403**

PATONG

- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-344521-2**
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-290468**
- ▶ **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: **076-342275**

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: **076-232398**
- ▶ **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) Tel: **076-258369**
- ▶ **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: **076-255425**

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: **076-325586**

RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: **076-613173**

KARON

- ▶ **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: **076-396911**

BAR MANAGER & ACCOUNTS CLERK

Seeking an experienced Bar Manager. Must possess fluent English / Thai skills. Position based in Patong. Also seeking Accounting Clerk. Tel: 085-475 8030. (English). Email: brucebenjaminthomas@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat Lagoon. is seeking an experienced accountant. requirements: over 3 years experience in accounts. Good command of spoken and written English. Good salary based on experience. Please contact us by email: fumiko@sa-mer.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady with fluent written and spoken English. A lady that wants a challenge where rewards will be exciting. Good computer and social skills. Based out of Chalong. Tel: 080-695 3933. Email: Beachsando1@gmail.com

ESTATE/RENTAL MANAGER

Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intravillas.com

SALES PERSON WANTED

A new quality condo development in Surin is looking for an on-site sales person for its sales office and show apartment. Must be able to communicate in English, both Spoken and Written and have experience with sales and marketing to an international clientele. Being available soon is a must. Call or email for more details. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

WORK CUSTOMER SERVICE @HC!

Customer Service Agents needed for internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? High Salary. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com For full details click here: www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months - 18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. Applications are now invited for the forthcoming academic year commencing in August 2013.

Assistant Boarding Parent and Part-Time Teacher of English Language (combined position)**Requirements :**

- 1 male (for senior boys house) and 1 female (for senior girls house)
- A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and teaching certificate, or Education Degree
- A minimum of 2 years teaching experience in English as Foreign Language
- Knowledge of the English National Curriculum will be advantageous.

Please email a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae including personal details (full name, citizenship, DOB, health, family), a brief statement of your educational philosophy, a recent photograph and the school email and telephone contact numbers of 3 academic referees to Headmaster@bisphuket.ac.th

Closing Date: 7th June 2013 (An early appointment will be made to the right candidate)



Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bisphuket.ac.th

PROMOTERS WANTED

Popular bar for young "Farangs" looking for dynamic people to do promotion. Residents and travellers welcome to apply. Tel: 081-958 5394 (English). Email: collinniemi@gmail.com

ITALIAN SALES CONSULTANT

Experienced Italian sales representative is needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Italian are required. Highest commission on the island awaits the right candidate. Tel: 081-968 5963. Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

MAID WANTED

Thai maid wanted for holiday villa in Surin. Live in or live out; must speak a little bit of English and have experience. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-693 1621 (Thai). Email: Kamalabeach@hotmail.com

FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI

Plus WELLNESS MANAGER required by Detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

WORK WANTED

Thai lady, speaks English, experienced, cook, maid, babysitter, can live in, looking for part-time job. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

FOOD STORE MANAGER

Food importer and distributor based in the south is seeking a branch manager. Ideal candidate has minimum 5 years experience in F&B industry and proven management skills. High salary and profit sharing scheme. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

Absolute.
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**WE ARE CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SUCCESS IN ASIA**

Are you someone who is focused and driven with an outgoing personality and not afraid of hard work or success? Are you someone who won't take **NO** for an answer?

If so, then read on...

Due to further expansion in Asia we currently have immediate openings for Sales Representatives and working TO's in Bali, Indonesia. This is a superb opportunity to become part of a busy sales team with one of the finest brands in Asia.

Sales Applicants should be

- Highly motivated with excellent communication skills both written and oral
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- Success driven, stable & reliable
- A natural ability to overcome objections
- No experience in the industry is required as you will receive full training to build a career in an exciting environment

As well as the above, we are accepting applications for Sales Management positions. Management applicants should have the following attributes

- A proven track record of Sales Management and results
- Ability to motivate a multi-national sales team

For immediate consideration please send a recent CV to careers@absoluteworld.net to arrange a confidential interview

ASSISTANT SALES MGR - 1 PERSON

Real estate agency is looking for an assistant sales manager. Thai national, female, good command of English, private car. Please send resume to sales@rt-pro.ru

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

Thai trainee housekeeper, English speaking, start from 10,000 baht, nice increase and work place. Tel: 081-787 9774. Email: phukettreasure@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

CHINESE-SPEAKING STAFF

Chinese/Thai-to-English translators and salespeople needed. Must have excellent spoken and written Chinese skills. Apply with CV and expected salary. Email: dreams holdings@yahoo.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
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Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at iTree Complete Printing Service



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GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Business Opportunities

KARON
GUESTHOUSE

2 minutes from beach, 5 storeys, 7 rooms. Price: 13 million baht. For more information please call 081-171 9705.

HOTEL
BEACHFRONT IN
PATONG FOR RENT

The best location on Patong Beach. There are 16 rooms, seaview and fully furnished, very good occupancy rates. Contact Mark. For more information, please call 080-141 6040.

30 ROOM HOTEL
FOR LEASE

High occupancy rate, good location, easy to start business! High ranking on online travel websites, such as booking.com, agoda.com, tripadvisor.com. Legal, current and up-to-date contracts with overseas tour operators that have high sales volume and many loyal customers with repeat business. Current sales channels and property management software; you can run your business online from anywhere in the world. Restaurant and terrace with 40 seats, kitchen fully equipped. 7 years left on lease, rent paid until 30 September 2013. Turnover 7.5 million baht per year, profit 2 million baht per year. Price: 7 million baht includes business, Thai company with 3 work permits, and many things you would waste your time on if you started from scratch. Everything is included! Contact owner directly (speaks English). Email: shincorp1@yahoo.com.sg

MASSAGE /
BEAUTY SALON

Top location in Kata for sale. Can sell 50% this year and the rest later. Contact Ulf. Tel: 087-281 7233.

BEAUTY SHOP
FOR SALE

Sale: 490,000 baht (negotiable). Fully equipped, with customers and equipment: 2 foot massage chairs, 1 massage bed, 3 hairdressing stations. Price includes Thai Co Ltd. Please call 090-154 6115 (English). Email: djanila_nuz@mail.ru

BUSY PIZZA BUSINESS
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Fully equipped company with 2 outlets, both situated on the busy main streets of Tonsai Bay. The company comes with two buildings at a monthly rent of 75,000 baht. Price 7 million baht. Contact Eddy. Tel: 086-120 1810 (English). Email: admin@phiphibarakuda.com

LOOKING FOR
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Euro 150 T. Security: One entry in German land register of private R.E. Value: Euro 400 T. Email: adventurainte rn@hotmail.com

LARGE INDOOR SPACE
FOR RENT

Mid-Soi Bangla, Patong. 20-1,000sqm. Great for discotheque, nightclub or entertainment. Tel: 085-887 7414. Email: nimirphuket@gmail.com

Be different and boost your exposure **Phuket Pool Tables!**

- We do **PROFIT SHARING** on Coin operated pool table so you don't need to invest in a table
- Join us now for a Hassle Free experience with many benefits to your business
- Our service team is on call 24/7

Call now 081 823 4627, 085 782 1200

Find out more exciting news & promotions at www.facebook.com/thailandpooltables

2 BUSINESSES
FOR SALE

Good location, Rawai area. 1) Restaurant: 40 pax, leased for 8.5 years. 2) Indoor pub: fully equipped, stage, 70 pax, 8 years and 6 months left on lease. Sale: 2.9 million baht - negotiable! Lease money pays rent. Tel: 087-244 1322, 087-892 6204.

RESTAURANT
FOR SALE

Steveos tasty burgers for sale. 800,000 baht o.b.o. For quick sale. Contact Steve. Tel: 089-918 3718. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.stev.eostastyburgers.com

MASSAGE &
BEAUTY SALON

For sale, in Boat Lagoon, 250,000 baht. 3-year contract. Tel: 081-606 4467.

GUESTHOUSE KARON

5 luxury rooms. Cafe bar. Recently undergone a major refurb. 6-year lease contract (paid in full). Low rent. Excellent location. 2 minutes to Beach. 5.5 million baht o.n.o. For more information, please call 081-891 9461.

HOT DEAL IN PATONG

Businesses for sale. 6.5 million baht, includes: 5 years left on current lease (key money paid until May 2018), Thai-registered company (1 work permit), all forward room bookings in baht, website, all stocks, furnitures, fittings. Rent: 105,600 baht per month. Prime location at Patong Beach, 28 rooms, 3 shops, 2 storeys, big bar, restaurant with a huge kitchen. Must see! Tel: 086-943 4447, 084-306 2440 (English). Email: hollywoodbeach@hotmail.com

COMPANY FOR SALE

Big discount on startup companies. Good name, paperwork, advice on accountant. Call for more details. Tel: 084-063 0620.

3 BUSINESSES
FOR SALE

Good location, Rawai area. 1) Big bar: 3 televisions, 2 pool tables, 60 pax, parking for 10 vehicles, good business. 2) Massage parlor: leased out. 3) Beauty salon: fully equipped. 8 years and 6 months left on lease. Sale: 2.9 million baht - negotiable. Lease money pays rent. Please call 087-244 1322, 087-892 6204.

PATONG
RESTAURANT
AND BAR

Great business opportunity. 80m from beach. Fully equipped, long-term lease, ground floor double unit. Key money: 1.2 million baht. Monthly rent: 60,000 baht. Contact Tony for viewing. Tel: 081-271 5811 (English & Thai). Email: aslaferme@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE
SOI BEL AIR

Busy mushroom-style bar for sale. All stock, fridges and sound system included. Price: 600,000 baht o.n.o. Rent: only 10,000 baht per month. All licences paid up until end of 2013. For more information, please call 086-725 0771 (English). Email: warrenmecca4@gmail.com

RESTAURANT
FOR SALE IN
CHALONG

Located next to Ao Chalong Sauna. Including company with 2 work permits. Price: 600,000 baht only. Tel: 081-893 4900 (English).

RESORT
FOR LEASE

In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 6 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

Bulletins

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiwc.com

Alcoholics
Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
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Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____

GUESTHOUSE +
RESTAURANT
FOR RENT

4 storeys: restaurant on the first floor, 7-room guesthouse on the second to fourth floor. 10 minutes from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-345604, 084-189 3509, 089-971 3301.

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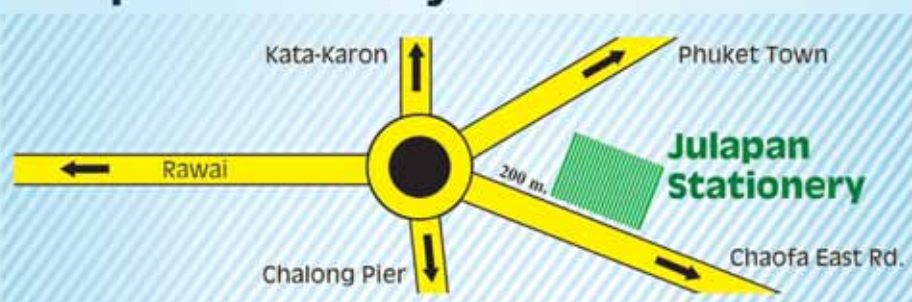
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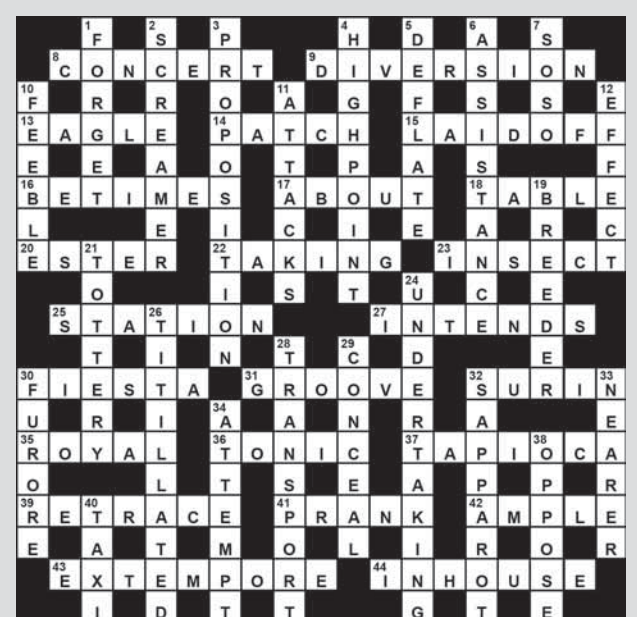
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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic Crossword



COFFEE break

TEX-MEX Night at Two Chefs Restaurant, Karon beach



From left: Sales Manager Jearayut Aphsunthonkan, Managing Director and part owner of Two Chefs Henrik Ojelind and Manager Jon Sjoln.



Le Versace hosted French Wine Dinner

Georges Dufresne (Middle) gives a warm welcome to VIP guest Mr Gulu Lavalni, owner of Royal Phuket Marina (first from left) and his guest at the Le Versace French Wine Dinner.

Super Tuscan Wine Dinner at Mom Tri's Kitchen, Villa Royale.

Center left: Executive Chef Darren Wiper. Center: Wine Director Georges Ciret. Center right: PR Manager Sylvie Yaffe.



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CARTOON CAPERS: A display at the Cartoon Museum at Seoul Animation Center, South Korea. Photo: Edward Johnson

Asian animation summit in Karon

ORGANIZERS of the second annual Asian Animation Summit (AAS) have announced that the 2013 event will take place in Phuket from December 9-11, following the Asia Television Forum. A five-star resort and spa on Karon Beach, to be announced, will host the summit, which seeks to promote co-production and co-financing of animation projects.

The AAS is an annual event designed to showcase Asia's strongest animated projects looking for investors and partners, and to stimulate co-production and co-financing of animation in the region.

The second summit has added a third day onto the program to allow more screening opportunities and new regional funding briefings. The event will feature 24 animated projects from the region – which includes Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and

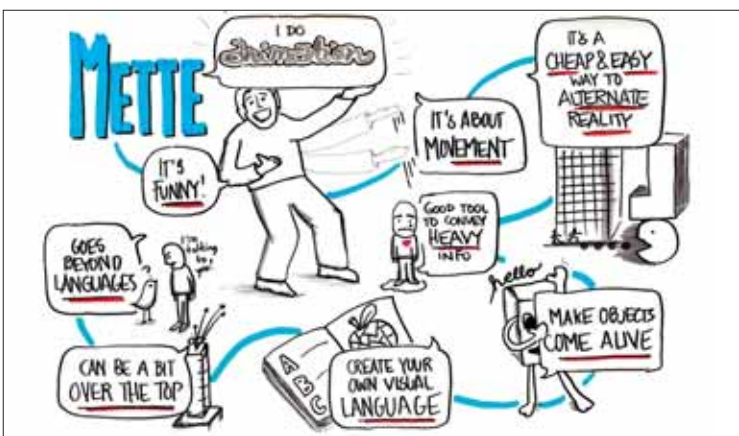
other countries – seeking financing and market feedback. The animations to be screened are selected by the organizing partners based on potential and quality.

Each day will begin with an informative 'regional funding' seminar that details the process and benefits of setting up co-productions in Australia, Malaysia and South Korea.

The inaugural Asian Animation Summit attracted nearly 300 attendees to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2012 and the organizing partners are anticipating at least 350 delegates to take part this year.

The summit is an initiative of ABC TV (Australia), KOCCA (Korea) and MDeC (Malaysia); produced and owned by Kidscreen and supported by the MDA of Singapore.

More information can be found at asiananimationsummit.com.



An artist's perception of the animation process. Photo: Anna L Schiller

Ghostly rom-com breaks Thai box office records



GHOSTLY LOVE: Mario Maurer and Davika Hoorne in 'Pee Mak Phrakhanong'. Their love is greater than war and death.

Film

By Leslie Porterfield

THAILAND'S top grossing movie of all time, *Pee Mak Phrakhanong*, stars five war buddies with black teeth and silly hairstyles. One still wears a toddler's topknot of the Rattanakosin period, explaining, "I got sick when I was a kid and mom vowed that if I recovered I'd keep this hairstyle forever."

They face a fierce enemy together, suffer terribly, and forge a deep bond.

Mak is shot in the chest and looks like a goner. But he pulls out a photo of his wife, Nak, wipes some gore from it and refuses to die, so great is his desire to see her again and meet their new baby.

He miraculously recovers and returns with his four friends in tow to his simple wooden house on the bank of a river. Reuniting with his wife, he coos: "I missed you so much, baby, so so sooooo much!"

This is a love story. Downstairs, his friends, listening in, look at each other. One says, "Geez, Mak is really whipped."

This is a comedy too. It's also a classic ghost story that's been remade again and again. Every Thai already knows that Mak's wife died giving birth to their child and is really a ghost.

Mak's friends quickly figure this out and try to convince Mak to run away, but he's a dumb bunny and

stubbornly in love besides, and refuses to believe them.

His somber wife Nak doesn't say much, just glowers threateningly as the friends gather evidence and bumblingly try to perform a ghost authenticity test on her.

Thais like the Mak 'n Nak story. A previous version, *Nang Nak*, was the highest grossing domestic film ever when it came out in 1999.

Other interpretations have been scary and sad, but *Pee Mak Phrakhanong* is lighthearted and funny, and Thai audiences are lapping it up.

The movie was hot out of the gate on March 28, with the second strongest opening day for a Thai film. 10 days later it became the second highest

million baht. The movie has done so well that its producers offered a week of discounted tickets – 80 baht – as a 'thank you' to viewers.

What happens at the end?

In previous versions, once Mak discovers his wife is a ghost – by seeing her lengthen her arm to pick up a piece of fruit that had fallen to the ground about three meters away – he can't bear to be with her anymore and runs away.

In this one, goofy Mak turns out not to be such a sucker after all. He knew all along that his wife was a ghost.

"Don't you think a man knows when his wife is dead?" he asks his friends.

But he loves her too much to leave her.

It's his ability to keep loving her, albeit with requested compromises – "Honey, please don't hang upside down again, you know I'm scared of ghosts" – that makes the movie, despite its silliness and slapstick, feel tender and real.



At time of going to press *Pee Mak Phrakhanong* was still showing in Phuket at SF Cinema City in Jungceylon, SFX Coliseum Cinema at Central Festival and at Coliseum Paradise

Multiplex at Ocean Plaza in Phuket Town. It has English subtitles.

Director: Banjong Pisanthanakun

Mak: Mario Maurer

Nak: Davika Hoorne

Ter: Nattapong Chartpong

Puak: Pongsatorn Jongwilak

Shin: Wiwat Kongrasi

Aey: Kantapat Pempoonpatcharasuk

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

June 2, 1-6pm: Ultimate Frisbee Fun Day

XANA and Phuket International Academy Day School (PIADS) have teamed up to launch the Ultimate Frisbee Fun Day. The event will give the whole family a chance to try their hand at this fun new sport – with no experience needed! Admission is free. Registration starts at XANA at 1pm, with the first round kicking off at 2pm. The last heat will end at 6pm. A beach BBQ buffet will be available for just 740 baht. To book a table or a cabana, please contact info@xanabeachclub.com

June 7-8, 9pm-1am Black & Gold party with Jeremy Healy

The UK's Jeremy Healy will be playing at XANA beach club for Attica's 'Black & Gold' party. The event will see Phuket's glitterati take to the dance floor to hear one of Healy's legendary flamboyant sets, supported by XANA's Friday night resident DJ Kensho. The theme for the evening is black and gold; from sassy accessorising to daring costumes. Face and body painting on the night will complete the look! Entry to the event is free of charge. Contact Annabel Fox on: +66-76-324101 or by Email: annabel@xanabeachclub.com or xanabeachclub.com

June 9, 1-6pm Post-Marathon Pool Chill-Out

The Post-Marathon Pool Chill-Out at XANA beach club with Attica, will feature a seafood BBQ buffet for 950 baht net per person, and will include one glass of house wine / Singha beer or a soft drink. Entertainment will be provided by the UK's Jeremy Healy and Phuket's Nemo Cools, who will be playing chilled-out beats by the pool until 6pm. Healy is one the UK's most formidable DJs and has worked with international stars



Laguna Phuket International Marathon June 8-9

including Rihanna, Sting and Justin Timberlake, as well as leading fashion brands from Pucci to Dior. Admission to the event is free. xanabeachclub.com

June 8 - 9, 4:30am to 12pm: 8th Laguna Phuket International Marathon at Laguna Grove, Laguna Phuket

Thousands of runners from around the world will "Run Paradise" in this, the eighth Laguna Phuket International Marathon to reaffirm its status as Asia's most popular family-friendly destination marathon. In addition to the full 42km marathon there's a 21.1km half marathon and 10.5km run.

Families will be catered for with the 91.5FM 5km community walk and 2km children's race. "Run Paradise" is an apt description, with runners of all ages and abilities on a mainly flat course that takes in rubber and pineapple plantations, beach views, local villages and the tropical lagoons of Laguna Phuket – all in a family-friendly carnival atmosphere. For more information, please visit: phuketmarathon.com

The *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Gazette's* 'Phuket Today' show are proud sponsors of this iconic annual event, segments of which will be broadcast daily by True Visions (channels 99 and 58) during the week of June 17.

ments of which will be broadcast daily by True Visions (channels 99 and 58) during the week of June 17.

June 20, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

The June lunch will be held at two Chefs Bistro in Karon. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information, please contact: Carole Dux: Phone +66-76-316711; or email: info@phuketiwc.com

July 6-7, 10am to 8pm: Phuket Airshow & Family Picnic at Phuket Airpark

Two full days of entertainment for local area charities. Support this great non-profit event by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or vendor. For more details please visit navyleaguephuket.org. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show.

July 22, Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his disciples after attaining enlightenment.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom and is also Mother's Day

September 19, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Members 500 baht and guests 650 baht. Contact: Carole Dux on +66-76-316711 or info@phuketiwc.com

October 8, 6-10:30pm Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards promote and reward excellence in these venues and convey this message to the media and wine and food consumers in Thailand and abroad.

The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October.

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast nationally eight times a week on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). Location to be confirmed for information contact Jon Hyams: Phone +66-80-471 8713; Email info@winelistoftheyearthailand.com

October 17, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch: the historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome. Members: 500 baht; non members and guests: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiwc.com Email info@phuketiwc.com

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Go to thephuketforum.net and post your question as a 'New Topic' in the Tech Forum. The assembled local gurus – featuring "Mr. Live Wire," Woody Leonhard's friend from the States – may well be able to solve your problem, pronto.

If you need to talk with someone, drop by one of the informal Sunday morning computer discussion groups, starting about 10am every Sunday at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (about 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road). Consolation, commiseration, and old fashioned help await – for free.

Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events. Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

Catch the show at these times

TrueVisions HD Channel 99 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	Phuket Cable Company (PC) Covers all Phuket. Channel 1 - 19 shows a week Monday - Friday: 10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm. Saturday & Sunday: 10:30am, 9:10pm.
True Freeview Channel 58 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1 - 28 shows a week Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.
Channel 43 - 8 shows a week Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Recalling a Thai Malaysian legacy

ONE of the most famous historical figures in the history of Phuket and this region, is the late Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong, better known on Phuket as Praya Rassada. He was the high commissioner of Phuket and the Southwestern region of Siam from 1900 to 1913. He was assassinated 100 years ago in May, 1913.

To commemorate his death, a regional historical symposium and business forum was recently held in Penang. The event was entitled 'Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong and shared history of Malaysia - Thailand relations'.

The event was held at Penang's famous old Eastern and Oriental Hotel and was organized by the Penang Heritage Trust in conjunction with The Thailand-Malaysia Business Forum. The Phuket Governor and several other Governors from Thailand's southern provinces attended.

Speakers at the event included the current Thai Deputy Prime Minister Kittirat Na Ranong; the Thai Ambassador to Malaysia, His Excellency, Krit Kaichitti; the president of the Penang Heritage Trust, Ms Khoo Salma Nausitien, as well as several professors, writers and family members of the Sultan of Kedah, and of the Khaw and Na Ranong families, from both Malaysia and Thailand.

The speaker representing Phuket was Mr Colin Mackay, the author of the recently published book *A History of Phuket and the Surrounding Region*.

The large and influential Khaw (in Malaysia) or Na Ranong Family (in Thailand) are the descendants of Khaw Soo Cheang, a poor Hokkien Chinese emigrant from Fujian province China, who arrived in the new British free port of Penang in 1822. Around 1824 he moved north to settle in Phang Nga and then Ranong, which was then a backward but developing frontier mining region.

He married a local Siamese girl and became a successful mine owner, and in 1854 he was appointed governor of Ranong province and given the princely title of Phraya Na Ranong (Baron of Ranong) by the Siamese King. He proved himself to be an able and efficient governor, building new roads, a courthouse and jail, creating fairer mining laws, and more importantly, paying his taxes to Bangkok on time.

He judiciously arranged marriages

between his many offspring from his several wives, both Siamese and Chinese, into the other influential political and business families in the region at the time, such as the Hokkien Tan Clan families in Phuket who controlled much of the region's tin mines, and other wealthy Hokkien business families in Penang. He also had a child married into the powerful, Persian-rooted Bunnang family in Bangkok, who at the time ran the government department for Southern Siam.

Due to these connections, the Na Ranong family prospered in the late 19th century and also grew politically powerful. By the late 19th century, Khaw Soo Cheang's sons were in position as Governors of most of the provinces of Southwestern Siam.

The most remarkable son was his youngest - Khaw Sim Bee, whose efficient governorship of Lang Suan, near Chumphon garnered him a promotion to become the governor of the more important Trang province. In Trang, he did a good job at developing the province, building infrastructure and

controlling the previously rampant banditry, as well as bringing the first rubber trees into Siam.

In 1900, Bangkok created Monthon Phuket (or greater Phuket county) this was a new super-province which incorporated all the surrounding southwestern Siamese provinces from Trang to Ranong into one big province under the administration of Phuket. Khaw Sim Bee was appointed the high commissioner of the whole tin-rich region south west of Siam and himself given the lordly title of Praya Rassada.

Although he was a short stumpy man standing just 1.7 meters tall, he was of strong character, entrepreneurial, clever and powerful. Under him the Na Ranong family, in cahoots with the local Tan family bosses on Phuket were able to dominate and monopolize the most lucrative businesses in Phuket at the time, namely: Opium, tin smelting, shipping, tin mining, logging, property and insurance.

Praya Rassada worked hard to improve and beautify Phuket Town, which until then was a squalid, ramshackle frontier mining Town. Phuket town itself was laid out along



PHUKET TYCOON: Praya Rassada, a keen golfer, played a pivotal role in the development of Phuket and built the island's first golf course at Surin Beach. Photos supplied by John Mackay



Kittirat Na Ranong, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.



SHARED HISTORY: Front-center seated, Mr Krit Kaichitti, Thailand's Ambassador to Malaysia, with some of the speakers at the symposium. Photo: Colin Mackay

Thalang road and at a 'T' angle along what was then the river front of Klong Bang Yai (which is now the rather stinky sewage-infested cement storm water drain that runs from Sam Kong down past the old Tavorn hotel and out to the sea from Sapan Hin).

He oversaw the construction of many of the fine old buildings in the government quarter of Rassada, such as the *Sala Klang* the provincial seat of government, the governor's house, the new court house and jail. He and other rich local Hokkiens in Phuket used mainly Penang-based architects to develop many of the fancy shop houses and some of the fine mansions in old Phuket Town, in a style similar to that of George Town on Penang island.

He introduced the first hospitals, schools, a cinema, an ice house and banking to the island. This was often done by forcing foreign companies who wanted mining concessions on the island to contribute towards the development of the Phuket Town as a condition of getting any business concession.

Praya Rassada and the Khaw family also started Tongkah Harbor Mining Co Ltd, and brought the first great steam dredgers to the island in 1907. Tongkah Harbor is still listed on the Thai and Malaysian stock exchanges today. Praya Rassada was a keen golfer, and even developed the island's first golf course in what is now Surin Beach Park in 1912.

His rule and business control over the island and the region was, however, quite autocratic, monopolistic and at times corrupt. Indeed, his attempts to keep the encroaching foreign companies out of his family's and associate's sphere of influence in Phuket, almost caused the irritated British to invade and colonize Phuket to remove him in order to help open up and

liberalize trade in the region.

In 1913 Praya Rassada was assassinated with a pistol at close range in a crowd on Trang pier by the local hospital dresser, who believed that he (Praya Rassada) was having an affair with his (the hospital dresser's) younger and apparently most attractive wife. After the Governor was shot the seriously wounded Praya Rassada was taken on his private steam ship to the best hospital in Penang where he and the other Khaw family members also kept their main houses, but he never recovered from the wound and died in Penang in May, 1913.

In the 19th century, wealthy men could take several wives as did Praya Rassada. The wealthy members of the Na Ranong or Khaw family have since intermarried and interbred and have now spread all over the region (and indeed the world) over the last 150 years. They have remained strongest in their main bases of Penang, Phuket and Ranong where the huge family grave can be seen beside the road to the Casino pier.

Today, family members such as Kittirat Na Ranong, who is the current Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Thailand, are evidence of the continued strength and influence of the family in the region, both in Thailand and Malaysia. So it was fitting that the 100th anniversary of Khaw Sim Bee's death was used to both promote this symposium to advance historical knowledge in the region and further business ties between these two historically closely linked islands of Penang and Phuket.

— *Phuket Gazette*

A copy of Colin Mackay's book *A History of Phuket and the Surrounding Region* is available from the Phuket Gazette offices or any Seng Ho bookstore.



SINO-PORTUGUESE: The former governor's mansion in Phuket, was commissioned by Praya Rassada and its design was influenced by Penang's architecture. Photo: Mark Knowles

Anansit Pornsirianant

HAVING graduated recently with a degree in Computer Science from the University of Melbourne, Anansit Pornsirianant, 22, returned to his hometown, Phuket, and received a quite welcome surprise.

His parents, owners of Phuket S.T. Co Ltd, better known as one of the main Honda motorcycle dealers in town, have just opened their latest venture, a new Honda Big Bike showroom and they've turned the whole operation over to their eldest son Anansit.

The family has been in the motorcycle business for as long as Anansit remembers. Phuket S.T., he says, started life on Thalang Road selling second-hand bikes in 1989.

A popular mode of transport in Thailand, motorcycles mean a burgeoning business anywhere. In 1995, the company became a Honda Motorbike dealer and expanded to its present-day headquarters on Thepkasatri Road and another five branches around the island, which are in Patong, Karon, Cherg Talay as well as on Talang and Chao Fah roads.

The newest branch across the street from the company's headquarters, Honda BigWing Phuket, deals exclusively in these coveted lifestyle vehicles, with displacements ranging from 500-1800cc, and prices from 200,000 baht up to 1.6 million baht.

According to a recent interview at the launch of BigWing Phuket in



March, the company projected its first-year sales to number at least 1,200. Instead of being daunted by the prospect of meeting this ambitious target, Anansit, relishes the challenge. Hard-working, well-educated and enthusiastic, Anansit believes he's got what it takes to steer BigWing Phuket on the road to success. What's more, he just loves big bikes.

"I grew up with motorbikes. In my teens I took part in various aspects of the business, ranging from accountancy to marketing and graphic design. My relationship with motorcycles was not exactly a passionate one until I was introduced to the Honda Big Bikes. These are the ultimate driving machines – so comfortable, powerful and smooth," says Anansit.

He also points to customer care as the most vital component of the company's success.

"We now live in the consumer-oriented era. How do you stand out from the dealers who sell the same product? By excellent customer services, I say."

He says that at the core of Phuket

BigWing's strategy is to create a community of riders who will form a strong southern regional Big Bike group. To help it along, the company plans to organize road trips and related events to draw riders together. The safety of their customers is also paramount and free riding safety workshops are held throughout the year.

Customer care, says Anansit, is deeply rooted in the philosophy of the company from its inception.

"Phuket ST, was named by my grandfather, it stands for a Chinese word 'Sue Tong', which means 'a smooth run in four directions of the compass'. The idea was that we would be the center for excellent products and services, looking after our customers wherever they may be. We still live by this philosophy up to the present day."

While Anansit is learning fast as he goes, in areas like marketing and management, his solid training as a programmer will prove useful when it comes to updating the company's database. In any case, this is a man with his feet firmly on the ground, who refuses to look too far ahead. "For me, what's more important is how I tackle the present."

Finally, Anansit says he is indebted to his parents for giving him the chance to exercise his management skills and his vision. "I've been given a fantastic opportunity and I will do my best to make them proud."



About Thai Gallery

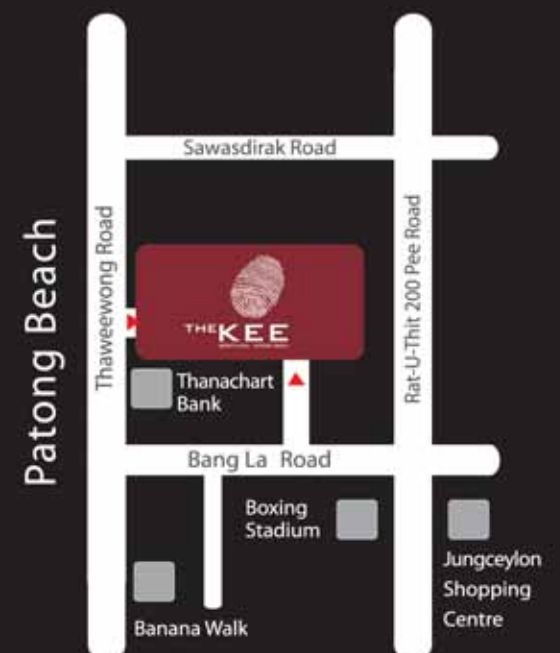
The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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TYPICAL TROPICAL: *Bougainvillea*'s vivid colors are a common sight in Phuket gardens. Photo: Martin RobsonBRIGHT WHITES: *Bauhinia* flowers have been likened to orchids. Photo: Brenn

'B' is for bloomin' beauties



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

WELL not *all* bloomin' beauties. Take bamboo or *bambusa* for example, it does produce a blossom; after all, flowers are a necessary prelude to the more important business of procreation by seed dispersal. However, bamboo isn't cultivated for its flowers, but for entirely different reasons. It is grown to create the ramrod-straight canes used commercially in scaffolding, or for lightweight furniture and *salas*. But for gardeners, it is prized as a verdurous screen, due to its propensity for rapidly creating erect barriers with its distinctive vivid green foliage.

If you aspire to be a bamboo man, choose a small variety and plant the canes well apart; they will spread rapidly and develop huge, tangled root systems which will deter any other plants from establishing themselves in the vicinity.

Dendrocalamus giganteus is the monster; smaller varieties include white bamboo grass which is variegated and *nitida* with black canes. *Ventricosa* or Buddha's belly has a knobbly, almost beaded stem.

Almost as quintessentially tropical is the *bougainvillea spectabilis*. Another ever-present in Phuket's gardens, it is chalk to bamboo's cheese. For a start it is not cherished for its foliage, but solely for its array of brilliantly colored, papery bracts. Hybrids now include almost all the colors of the rainbow, though the dominant hues are still salmon pink, orange red, magenta and white.

Gardeners, however, should beware that *bougainvilleas* are extremely thorny—I have had spikes go right through sturdy rubber soles—and, once established, the shrub grows at a furious pace, climbing and hanging on by those same curved spines. *Bougainvilleas* prefer full sun and dry soil: reveling in rainless heat-waves, they can be left to fend for

themselves. Indeed, most potted specimens sulk from being over-watered, and may refuse to bloom. Hard pruning promotes bushy growth and more flowers.

My predecessor as gardening correspondent for the *Phuket Gazette* was a gentlemen whose punning '*nom de plume*' was 'Blooming Bert'. Yet another 'B'

However, it struggled in my new garden, and I soon realized that a better variety was probably the one most often seen in Phuket, *B. variegata*, which though inclined to grow as a many stemmed shrub, will, with suitable pruning, form a small tree with an open crown. Most *bauhinias* have distinctive, deeply lobed, heart-shaped leaves, but their crowning glory is the wonderful show of purple, orchid-like flowers which may be two to three inches across. As a member of the *fabaceae* family, such riches are followed by messy looking beans. Chop them off to encourage future growth. The Hong Kong orchid tree (*B. blakeana*) is another suitable

Both varieties are semi-deciduous, but this propensity will allow smaller shrubs to flourish in their dappled shade. A popular roadside tree, they can be seen decorating the road from Karon to Patong.

Other, less frequently grown *bauhinias* are climbers. *B. kockiana* has very different, conventionally petaled orange flowers which are produced in clusters. Hailing from the Malaysian rain forest, it needs shade for its roots and plenty of water. In common with so many tendril-less vines, it will need the support of a stout tree or trellis to realize its full potential.

Buddleia paniculata can't compete with *bougainvilleas* or *bauhinias* in this particular beauty contest. Unlike the temperate 'butterfly bush' with its spectacular deep purple or lilac racemes, this tropical variety has fairly insignificant spikes of white flowers. The fragrance generated by these flowers is sweet and heady, especially in the evening and butterflies will arrive in fluttering droves.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

MONSTER BAMBOO: *Dendrocalamus giganteus* is the largest species of bamboo and its stems can grow to tree-like proportions. Photo: Stefan le Du

word. The first piece I read by him was about the dwarf *bauhinia*. It must have been persuasive: it inspired me to go out and buy one.

subject for treatment. The foliage is gray-green and the blooms can vary from purple through maroon to pink on the same tree.

Tip of the week

Plumerias

PLUMERIAS used to be called *frangipanis*; in Thailand the name was changed from *lan-tom* to *leelawadee*. But there was more than a mere change of designation. While the number of cultivars has been vastly increased, botanists have reduced the number of original species. Most *plumerias* are now considered to be derived from *P. obtusa* or *P. rubra*.

My local spa has a fine collection of both; mature trees about four meters tall and currently in full leaf and bloom.

The species differences are interesting. *Obtusa*—found in Muslim cemeteries and Buddhist temples—has large clusters of fragrant, white, five-petaled blooms, and glossy, oblong leaves which are rounded at the ends; *rubra* has 'rainbow' flowers, mostly suffused with bright pink and yellow. *Rubra*'s light green, oval leaves are symmetrical and pointed, with a matte texture. *Obtusa* is hardier and less prone to rust and leaf drop, but both spa incumbents are in great shape.

Dog of the week

WHEN the team at Doggie Heaven first laid eyes on this beautiful Rottweiler, we have since named 'Air', she had an horrible gaping wound on the side of her head. She was tightly chained by the neck to a concrete post and left out in the blazing hot sun with nothing to shelter under and not even a bowl of water.

First stop on her road to recovery was the vet, where we spent to next two and a half hours cleaning maggots from the wound, taking blood tests and putting her on a drip to help with rehydration. Sadly, the vet estimated the wound on her head

had been festering for up to a month, as the maggots were huge.

Air was given only a 30 per cent chance of living. But after a few months of the right medicine, lots of rest and TLC at Doggie Heaven, and eating us out of house and home—she has now fully recovered and can't wait to be loved by someone caring and compassionate.

I think you'll agree after looking at her photo that she's a real stunner now and has a very relaxed chilled personality to go with it.

To adopt Air, please contact Doggie Heaven in Thalang: Sherin.peace@gmail.com or www.doggieheaven.net



MIRACLE SURVIVAL: Air has made a rapid recovery from a life-threatening wound on her right ear

A great grill experience

By Mark Knowles

WHEN we organized our visit to The Grill at Regent Cape Panwa, the newest luxury resort on the cape, I was intrigued by general manager Brice Borin's offer to show us the "Regent experience" as he put it. Later that week, sipping a cool drink at the open-air rooftop bar, watching a cruise liner sail off towards the horizon on the Andaman Sea, I was beginning to get a sense of what such an experience might entail.

When he sat to join us, we asked Brice to elaborate on what exactly he meant. "Take these prawn crackers for example" he said, gesturing to the spicy, crisp yellow crackers served with a rich satay sauce, that we had already started snacking on, "we make them ourselves, with our own mix of prawn and spices. In fact, we make our own jam, mustard and ice-cream... even our own bacon". We were impressed, but it turns out that these are not the only individual components of the menu to be made from scratch, dozens of usually pre-ordered items, such as bacon, smoked salmon, even dried muscatel grapes, are all prepared from fresh ingredients in The Grill's kitchen.

This dedication to sourcing the best ingredients, and allowing the quality of the food to speak for itself, is the hallmark of executive chef Justin Baziuk. Hailing from New Zealand, Justin has worked in top restaurants in Australia, China and Dubai, and it seems as if the Regent has let him off the leash, so to speak, when it comes to stocking his larder. The cuisine Justin is producing is simple, not overcomplicated in terms of flavor, and his main aim is to showcase the ingredients and allow them to be the stars of the show.

Soon, we moved down to the lower dining level, where Justin greeted us and began to take us through the menu. Within minutes, it became clear that he has an

abiding passion for meat – good meat. He deftly explained to us some of the intricacies of Angus/Tajima crossbreeds, marble scores and grain fed versus pasture fed cattle.

"Coming out of Black Creek in Western Australia, I've got a Black Angus/Tajima Wagyu cross, which is pasture fed for 14 months and finished on grain for 450 days,

"To find a piece of meat that is finished on grain for that long is not that common and gives it that ultimate marbling," he said. After that, the only question left to us was whether the cow was black or white, and in all likely hood, he could have told us.

We decided to leave ourselves in Justin's capable hands when he offered to create a selection plate showcasing some of his champion ingredients. For starters, was a tasting platter of seared foie gras, raw eye tuna slices stuffed with blue swimmer crab and topped with caviar, Spanish white anchovies with shaved fennel and whiskey cured Tasmanian salmon (cured in-house, naturally). As we savored these fresh flavors, I spoke to Brice about the concept of The Grill restaurant as part of the Regent's approach to hospitality.

"It's what I call a fine dining experience, but still in a very casual way," he said.

The Grill has a extensive menu, but each of the 'main' ingredients can be prepared in a variety of cooking styles, so you can choose your

meat and seafood and then specify how you would like it prepared.

"We do this so people can come to the same restaurant one night and have Western style and the next night have Asian style and the next Indian style and so on."

By providing this exacting quality of food and service, Brice hopes his guests can enjoy a complete and relaxing holiday experience without ever having to leave the resort.

"I'm a hotelier, what I mean by that is, that I'm in the hotel business, I'm not in the business of hotels, if you have



PRIME QUALITY: Pan-seared scallops served on a bed of asparagus. Photo: Justin Baziuk

that [approach], business will come.

"My guests are coming and they enjoy it. We have guests that come and never leave the hotel. That's what I want people to talk about, the experience."

As we continued to talk, Justin returned to introduce the highlight of the evening. Sitting on the rectangular platter where several juicy morsels of meat, cooked to pink perfection. A sirloin of purebred Tajima, tenderloin from Tasmania's Cape Grim, salt bush-fed Bultarra lamb "you can't go past that" and finally a succulent rib eye of black Angus/Tajima beef. The incredibly tender meat truly did speak for itself, needing nothing but a drop of *jus* to accentuate its incredible flavors. Side dishes for this carnivore's delight included, asparagus in truffle hollandaise, chips with shaved truffle and Parmesan, and finally, some delectable grilled portobello mushrooms.

Almost full to bursting after our main course, and some well-chosen wines from the extensive and reasonably priced wine list, we allowed Justin to persuade us to taste a selection of his

decadent desserts. Chocolate was definitely the theme here, with fondant, ganache and ice-cream, all crafted with deep and deliciously rich 70 per cent Verona chocolate. The chocolate fondant with Bailey's ice-cream was devilishly good, particularly for that oh-so-satisfying moment when the you crack it open to watch the lava-like filling flow onto the plate.

At this point, I was convinced of the pleasures of the 'Regent experience' and our appetites were utterly sated as we sat



From left: Food and Beverage Director Merjin Wessel, Executive Chef Justin Baziuk and General Manager Brice Borin.

conversing, the taste of chocolate lingering on our tongues. We asked Brice what he liked most about Phuket since he moved here to run the Regent.

"I really love the Panwa area, it's like Phuket 20 years ago, it keeps the true charm of Phuket," he said. He lamented that so many

of Phuket's residents rarely venture to Cape Panwa and told us about an offer he has created to help attract locals. For the rest of June, when you come to enjoy dinner at The Grill, you only need to spend 5000 baht and you can turn your

wonderful evening into a wonderful night by staying in a luxury room from only 2500 baht. What's more, you get a sumptuous buffet breakfast the following morning.

"We want to attract the locals, so they don't have an excuse not to come, like it's too far, I say, now you have no excuse, you can stay the night," said Brice with a grin.

So if your looking to indulge yourself, be sure to book a table at The Grill and enjoy your own Regent experience.



SUCCULENT: The perfectly cooked organic lamb and beef from Australia was fantastic.



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A world of plastic

1. PET or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) is found in: soft drink and water bottles, mouth-wash bottles, peanut butter containers, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers and ovenable food trays, and recycled into: Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, and (occasionally) new containers. PET plastic is the most common for single-use bottled beverages, because it is inexpensive, lightweight and easy to recycle. It poses low risk of leaching breakdown products. Recycling rate in Phuket is high as is demand by re-manufacturers, based mostly around Bangkok.



2. HDPE (high density polyethylene) is found in: milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, some trash and shopping bags, motor oil bottles, butter and yogurt tubs and cereal box liners. It can be recycled into: laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tiles, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables and fencing. HDPE is a versatile plastic with many uses, especially for packaging. It carries low risk of leaching and is readily recyclable into many goods.

with many uses, especially for packaging. It carries low risk of leaching and is readily recyclable into many goods.

3. V (Vinyl) or PVC (polyvinyl chloride) is found in: bottles for window cleaner, detergent, shampoo and cooking oil, clear food packaging, wire jacketing, medical equipment, siding, windows and piping. It can be recycled into: decks, paneling, mudflaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps and mats. PVC is tough and weathers well, so it is commonly used for piping, siding and similar applications. PVC contains chlorine, so its manufacture can release highly dangerous dioxins. If you must cook with PVC, don't let the plastic touch food. Also never burn PVC, because it releases toxins.



4. LDPE (low density polyethylene) is found in: squeezable bottles; bread, frozen food, dry cleaning and shopping bags; tote bags; clothing; furniture and carpet. It can be recycled into: trash can liners and cans, compost bins, shipping envelopes, paneling, lumber, landscaping ties and floor tile. LDPE is a flexible plastic with many applications.

5. PP (polypropylene) is found in: some yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps, straws and medicine bottles. It can be recycled into: Signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, auto battery cases, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets and trays. Polypropylene has a high melting point, and so is often chosen for containers that must accept hot liquid.



6. PS (polystyrene) is found in: disposable plates and cups, meat trays, egg cartons, carry-out containers, aspirin bottles and compact disc cases. It can be recycled into: insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons, vents, rulers, foam packing and carry-out containers. Polystyrene can be made into rigid or foam products – in the latter case it is popularly known as the trademark Styrofoam. Evidence suggests polystyrene can leach potential toxins

into foods. The material was long on environmentalists' hit lists. Most places still don't accept it, though it is gradually gaining traction.

7. Miscellaneous types, found in: three and five-gallon water bottles, 'bulletproof' materials, sunglasses, DVDs, iPod and computer cases, signs and displays, nylon and some food containers. It can be recycled into: plastic lumber and custom-made products. A wide variety of plastic resins that don't fit into the previous categories are lumped into seven. A few are even made from plants (polyactide) and are compostable. Polycarbonate is one of these miscellaneous hard plastics that has parents worried these days, after studies have shown it can leach potential hormone disruptors.

Source: TheDailyGreen.com



Recycling 101:

EVERY day, some 700 tonnes of garbage enter the island's collection system. This does not include all the litter discarded into the sea, canals, and onto public and private property, roads and parks

By Steven Layne and Saran Mitrarat

BY SOME estimates, as much as 20 per cent of the island's rubbish gets recycled. This number could be higher, granted consumers are made aware of a few things.

The island is home to dozens of small and medium scale scrap yard operations and recycling depots that make a living, if not decent business, from buying back junk – old and new – from individual consumers, as well as independent ma' and pa' collectors and brokers (see panel on opposite page).

Despite this, so much trash, rubbish and junk that could – would and should – have been recycled, never gets a chance, and is instead sentenced to a fate at the repugnant Saphan Hin landfill, where it will ultimately end up feeding the incinerator, burnt and broken down into detectable traces of various harmful dioxins.

To get a better idea of the situation and thus help spread awareness, the *Gazette* paid a visit to the incinerator as well as two main recycling plants on the island – Phuket Ruamset and Wong Panit. This week will cover the two recycling plants, and in a follow up article, we'll focus on the incinerator.

PHUKETRUAMSET

Located on Soi Tantalum off of Pracha Samaki Road in Rasada, just to the southwest of the new bus terminal, the Ruamset recycling plant is owned by Anuwat Maharach

Starting with plastics, Mr Anuwat said: "We generally accept four categories of plastic; PET, PP [polyethylene], clear and thick number two [HDPE], and colored plastics which sink in water.

"Actually we will accept all types of recyclable garbage – [except polystyrene food containers, the *Gazette* notes]."

Mr Anuwat explained that the rates his company pay for material vary and are subject to changes in the market.

Generally, copper is valued at between 100-200 baht per kilogram, aluminum 10-50 baht, stainless steel about 40 baht, rubber tube about 6 baht, light blue PVC about 10 baht, grey PVC about 3 baht, plastic 9-22

baht and steel 5-11 baht. Marine and car batteries are worth between 22-27 baht; paper 2-6 baht and used oil 10 baht per kilogram.

Prices change everyday, subject to the market price and type of garbage.

"At our shop, we just collect, sort and pack it. Then, we'll send it to Bangkok, once a week."

Mr Anuwat estimates that his center processes some 30 tonnes per week. This amount includes between six to 10 tonnes of plastic.

Asked about current challenges his company is facing, Mr Anuwat said, "At the moment, we are facing an employee shortage. We used to hire employees from Myanmar, but the situation has changed.

They've mostly moved on to work more convenient jobs, as they have much more freedom

and at the fork in the road, marked by a blue sign, turn left. Ruam Set is on the left hand side, opposite of Chalong Concrete. For more information, call 076-352 070 or 081 895 2099.

WONGPANIT

Phuket's largest recycling plant is Wong Panit in Kathu, just to the west of Tesco Lotus, Phuket branch.

Nithi Ruktaetrakul, branch manager told the *Gazette*: "We accept all types of plastic, even if they are not marked."

However, the depot will not accept used polystyrene food containers, and the *Gazette* is not aware of any place in Phuket who will.

"Since we have too many customers everyday, depending on the time and season, we have a high volume going in and out, so it's difficult to track down exactly how much plastic we recycle.

"Overall, for all types of garbage, we process between 20 to 30 tonnes per day.

"There are so many categories of garbage, but in Thailand, we try to make it easy for people to understand.

"For plastic, we generally use two categories – high and low density weights, or plastic which either

sinks or floats in water."

Beyond this, the plastic is also categorized based on common brand associations.

The firm readily accepts PET plastic bottles, paying out between 11-13 baht per kilogram for Oishi green tea and Listerine mouthwash bottles, or any bottle marked with number 1 inside a recycle triangle on the bottom of the bottle (see panel to right).

However, in the case of some low quality plastics from China or Brazil, for example, the number is not shown, but the firm will still accept these and use a float test to determine its density and thus price.

He clarified that high density plastics are commonly referred to as "Plastic Loy Nam" [literally, plastic that floats on water].

"If we're unsure about what type of plastic it is, we'll put a piece of it into water. If it floats, it fits into this [high density] category. This includes most shampoo bottles. We can pay between 5 to 8 baht per kilogram for this type."



The Wong Panit center handles between 20-30 tonnes a day.

since their country has opened up.

This has had a big impact on us. If we don't manage to sort and sell [recyclable items] in time, the market price could change, and sometimes we lose [profits]."

Asked if he had advice for consumers, Anuwat said: "When you bring the garbage to us, please sort by the type of garbage; keep Oishi [PET] or milk [HDPE] bottles [separate from] newspapers, brochures or steel. We don't like organic garbage. It smells bad and makes our warehouse smell.

To get to Phuket Ruamset, from Thepkasattri road, turn onto Pracha Samaki road (The three way junction for Pracha Samaki road is marked by a set of traffic lights, just to the south of the main Supercheap shopping center and new bus terminal; the Phuket Provincial Electrical Authority power substation is on the corner of this junction). Head west on Pracha Samaki road for a kilometer or so,

reducing a piling burden



ONE'S JUNK'S ANOTHER'S TREASURE: An employee at a local recycling plant in Phuket Town (Naka) sorts through some scraps. Photos: Steven Layne

Low density plastic, known as “*plastic krob jom nam*” [literally, plastic that sinks], gets a price of around 1-6 baht per kilogram.

“Beyond this, we’ll pay 10 baht per kilogram for CDs, 7 baht for acrylics, 8-9 baht for light blue PVC and about 1-4 baht for grey/black PE.”

He added that another type of low-density plastic currently in high demand is the thin opaque bottles used to store cheap drinking water (the easily squeezable kind typically found in local mom and pop shops and costing 5 baht; see picture to right). He noted that although the retail value of such products was quite low, the recycle value is relatively higher, at around 18-20 baht per kilogram.

This is not necessarily the case for thicker, opaque plastic bottles, such as those used for popular half liter and liter bottles for popular milk products such as meiji [HDPE], for example, which get around 10-12 baht per kilogram.

Other than plastic, the depot also buys paper (2-3 baht) steel (7- 8 baht), glass (0.50 – 0.80 baht), aluminum (20-44 baht) and even old electronics.

“For an old TV, we pay 20 baht per kilogram and 8 baht per kilogram for old fans. We also accept white batteries (23.50 baht), but we do not accept wood.”

Asked to give advice, Nithi Ruktaetrakul said, “Phuket has many people who use products, but the people don’t know about how to properly manage garbage, and aren’t aware of its value and that some of it can actually be sold to make money.

“When people throw their trash away, then it will be burnt in the incinerator, resulting in dioxin pollution that affects the environment and the masses. People can help by sorting their garbage before they throw it out. Someone who knows the value of it will bring it to be recycled

or sell it to make money.

“Also, people can help by reducing the volume of garbage they produce. Another thing is to separate organic garbage from recyclables before bringing it to us.

“If everyone brings it to us, and only deals with bigger recycling companies, it will affect smaller companies, or individuals who sell recyclables to make a living.

“I don’t want to impact them, so I advise that if you can find a local seller or small company, than sell or give your recyclables to them instead. The price will not be much different from us.”

To get to Phuket’s main Wongpanit recycling center, from Tesco Lotus in Phuket Town, head west en route to Patong. As soon as you see the Shell petrol pump, make a U-turn and head back towards the pump, turning left



FROM TRASH TO CASH: There are many outlets in Phuket willing to pay for most of your unwanted junk. Here, the Gazette’s Steven Layne earned 11 baht for a bag full of empty beer cans. Inset: The owners of Phuket Ruamset



The incinerator burning our trash.

onto the soi right before the pump. Large green signs point out the rest of the way. For more information, call 076-203271 or 089 471 7101



Certain types of plastic have a high market worth. Photo: Saran Mitratat

A depot near you

Following is a listing for several more recycling outlets in Phuket:

•**Naka Recycle;** just south of Naka junction, on west side of Chao Fa West road: 076-221489, 081 417 0486

•**Por Patansatil;** Soi Kho Lan, Baan Lipon: 076-311069, 086 478 0860

•**Wong Panit;** near government housing, Thalang: 076-617830

•**Seppakorn Kakong Kao 2,** opposite Baan Lipon government housing: 076-617368

•**Thepkraassatri Kakong Kao;** opposite the main branch of Super Cheap: 076-204 003, 084 307 6111 or 083 593 7098

•**Tor Rap Seu Kakong Kao;** Sam Kong: 076-523 176

•**Nutsiri;** Soi Pakui, Mae Luan Road: 0896503060, 076-235295

•**Jareu Kakong Kao;** near Koh Sirey bridge: 076-252085

•**Bangyen Kalekkao;** Phang Nga Rd, near Mazda showroom: 076-252328

•**Big C Kakong Kao;** near Daoroong School: 076-383472

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British International School Phuket class of 2013 valedictorian Hyun Jung Kim.



Extended Essay award recipient Maria Isabelle Becker.



Creative Action Service award recipient Natacha Kitchakarn.



TOK award winner Charlotte Joy Trudgill, Headmaster Neil Richards, Mr Apiwat Ourairat.

BIS students look to the future

By Mark Knowles

STUDENTS from the British International School Phuket (BIS) were all smiles on Friday, May 24 as they celebrated their graduation from the school's International Baccalaureate (IB) program. There were 47 students in the year-13 class for 2013 and no doubt all of them felt relieved to have completed the intensive two-year course. Students now begin the nail-biting wait to receive their final marks and to find out whether they have been accepted into the university of their choice.

During the graduation ceremony, guest speaker, school CEO Mr Apiwat Ourairat, congratulated students for their hard work and dedication and wished them well for their future endeavors.

Head students Natacha Kitchakarn and Kanisorn Jatumatmetee delivered touching speeches detailing the support from teachers and camaraderie with fellow students they experienced during their time at the school.

Mr Jatumatmetee went so far as to name everyone of his classmates, along with some of their endearing foibles or the nicknames they had earned during their school years.

Hyun Jung Kim was named class Valedictorian and three more students received awards for their excellence in aspects of the IB program. In addition to standard subjects, IB students also study Theory of Knowledge, complete a 4000 word extended essay and a 150 hour CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) program.

Charlotte Joy Trudgill was presented with the award for excellence in Theory of Knowledge. Maria Isabelle Becker garnered the award for best extended essay and head student Natacha Kitchakarn was presented with the Creative Action Service (CAS) award.

Following the ceremony, students gathered for a class photo and the traditional throwing of their mortar boards into the air.



MORTAR BOARDING: BIS class of 2013 celebrate by throwing their hats in the air. Photo: M Knowles

The celebrations continued into the evening with a formal dinner at the Karon Beach Hilton.

BIS was founded in 1996, and since that time its graduates have attained admission to universities all over the world, and this year will be no exception; graduating students will attend universities in 15 different countries.

The *Gazette* spoke to several students, whose interests range from sport to science and the arts, about their hopes and plans for the future. Isabelle Becker won the award for best extended essay, but is also a talented artist. She has been awarded top International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) student in the world for her art work and says that

forging a career as an artist is her "ideal job". Isabelle plans to study at University of the Arts London Central St Martins and says she is thrilled at the opportunity to live and study abroad.

Bianca Goetz has not only excelled in her studies but is a champion swimmer with eyes on the 2016 Olympic games. She undertakes a rigorous training regime which sees her swimming for four hours a day in addition to doing her normal schoolwork. "Swimming is my life" she says, and she has been accepted at Ohio State University in the US on a swimming scholarship.

Vanida Moskovitz-Legrain sees her future in filmmaking and is planning to study drama and theater at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia. Before embarking on her university studies she wants to take some time off to travel do volunteer work.

Pongpol 'Tee' Trisuwan is fascinated by logic and problem solving and says he is looking forward to the challenging study environment of Imperial College London.

He plans to study computer science and hopes to one day open his own company. He said that his teachers were an inspiration to him during his time at BIS, often going beyond coursework to discuss philosophical aspects of the subjects they teach.

Pophum 'Kidd' Lawtongkum was particularly excited about finishing school, so excited in fact, that he hurt his leg jumping for joy after finishing his final exam and attended the ceremony on crutches. He has been accepted to study biomedical science at the University of South Hampton.

As part of his extended essay project, Kidd undertook a scientific study of the effectiveness of a traditional Thai medicinal herb compared to modern drugs. He said conducting the study was fascinating and in part inspired him to go into biomedical science.

With so many bright young students, it's clear that the BIS graduating class of 2013 has a promising future ahead of them.



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A canter around Lanta



PARADISE POSTPONED: Koh Lanta in Krabi is laid-back and relatively old-fashioned, a great escape from the hustle and bustle of Phuket. Photo: Matteo Pieroni

KOH LANTA is about a four-hour drive south of the Sarasin Bridge and has been described by many as 'paradise postponed'. The reason is that access to this lovely island is constrained by the need to cross two small pieces of sea by two extremely slow and decrepit vehicular ferries, which can take up to two hours to negotiate, often in blazing sunshine.

Hence, the island is still largely undeveloped in the mainstream touristic sense, although there's an abundance of bric-a-brac backpacker-style guest houses, bars and internet cafes strung along the cratered road that runs through the town of Saladan where you disembark.

I've been to Lanta quite a few times, starting in 2003, and this time I felt sure that the roads would be in good enough nick to accommodate the thin tires of my new Italian road bike. In this I was wrong. The roads are, if anything, degenerating, with some shocking ridges and furrows in the concrete. So, with hindsight, I highly recommend taking along a mountain bike if you do undertake a trip to Koh Lanta.

The island is a long narrow teardrop running north to south. It's about 16km long and no wider than 4km at its thickest point. There's basically one road that runs around the perimeter and two cut-through roads that slice across the central ridge of hills that run down the spine of the island. That's it folks... It's charmingly quiet, bucolic and impossible to get lost!

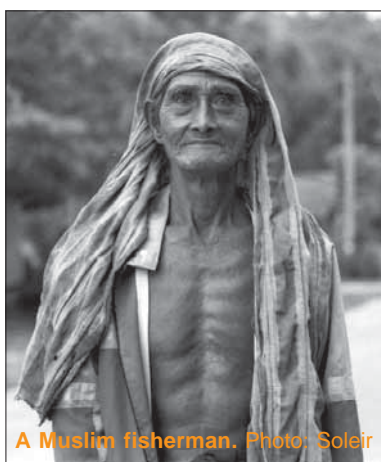
Our plan was to ride the length of the island to the national park at the southern tip and then go on a hike, prior to staying the night at the luxurious Pimalai Resort and Spa and dining with the general manager Franck de Lestapis at the lovely beachside barbecue restaurant.

The road south from Saladan



Blazing Saddles
By Baz Daniel

is pretty flat and runs parallel to the beach, but is bordered at first by a clutter of ramshackle bars, guesthouses, massage joints and billboards exhorting you to join the next 'full moon party' at dubious-looking bars up in the hills. After 5km of this, the building frenzy declines, and at last the road begins to run along the comely beach itself, providing stunning views out across lower Phang Nga Bay, with the most dramatic



A Muslim fisherman. Photo: Soleil

silhouette of the limestone karst island Koh Ha seemingly hovering within the heat haze on the horizon. There are a couple of laid-back beach bars here, worth a stop for a refreshing juice and a plate of fresh fruit.

As you enter the southernmost quarter of the ride, the roads start to buck and weave like the back of an irate snake, with some vertiginous climbs and descents which are made all the more hair-raising by the appalling state of the road. Most definitely great care needs to be taken here, particularly on a road bike. In compensation, the scenery is pretty sensational, with great vistas across the surrounding sea.

At the park gates we were charged the foreigner price of 200 baht, but the walk through pristine rain forest down to Ta Noad Cape at the island's south was invigorating and we saw only two other hikers during our two hours on the trail.

We cycled back north for five kilometers to Pimalai Resort, which occupies a stunning amphitheater within the rain forest overlooking beautiful Ba Kan Tieng Bay. Pimalai is without exaggeration one of Thailand's premier resorts and its pristine beauty is unsurpassed. Franck de Lastapis, its convivial GM, is an old friend. He gave us a beachside villa for the night which commanded sensational sunset views; a session in their tropical garden spa; and a beachside seafood supper of fresh red snapper and crunchy veggies that we washed asunder with a NZ Sauvignon Blanc, and made all our leg pains evaporate.

Our second day dawned with laps in the huge Pimalai infinity pool and a Herculean buffet breakfast, our flagrant calorie uptake being self-justified by the day's cycling ahead.

We cycled back north for a few clicks then took the right turn onto the cut-through road that leads up and over the central hills and then down into Lanta Old Town. This is a charming Muslim fishing village with many of the waterfront houses built on stilts out over the water and a long pier thrusting eastwards into the sea. It's decidedly sleepy with somnambulant dogs gracing the middle of 'Main Street' and some nice cafes in which to linger over a coffee and cake. We dropped into Mango House, which is run by an old friend named Duane Lennie, who has been living there for the last 12 years. We caught up on the local gossip mainly



Baz and the local children (top), and his swanky Italian road bike on the way to Saladan Pier on Lanta Island (bottom). Photos: Baz Daniel



concerning plans to build a bridge across at least one of the stretches of water connecting Lanta to the mainland. But as this has been mooted for as long as Duane can recall, it's one of those 'believe it when you see it' stories.

Eventually we re-mounted and cycled a charming stretch of road that took us up the island's east coast, avoiding the sundry water buffalo and chickens, to the cut-

through road that leads back to the west coast and the final 6km to Saladan Town for lunch and then the ferry back to the mainland.

We took our time cantering around Lanta and it can certainly be circuted in a day if you wish. It's a charming escape from Phuket and rather charming in a quaint, old-fashioned way. But next time I go I will be sure to take my mountain bike!

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JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.

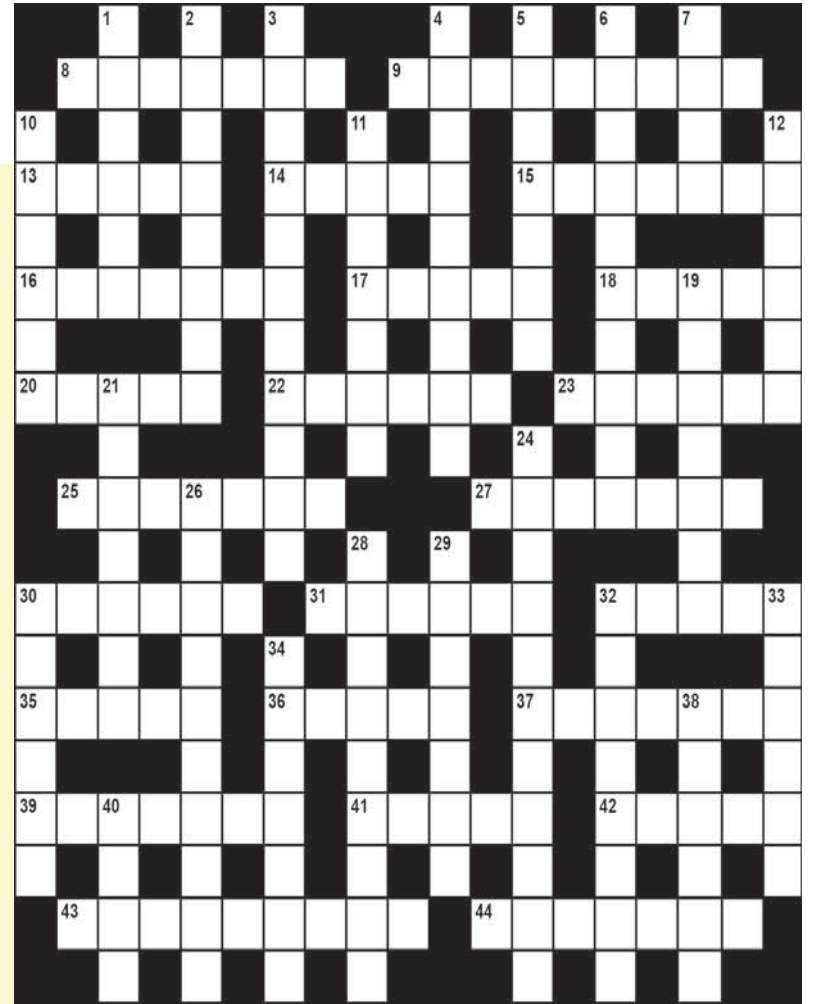


Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See juksadventures.com for more information.

COFFEE break

Across:

8. Show agreement (7)
 9. Deviation for entertainment (9)
 13. Each leg moved the bird (5)
 14. A plot of ground for the pet dog (5)
 15. Dismissed having placed part of the bet elsewhere (4,3)
 16. Best I'm moving out East early (7)
 17. More or less a boxing match (5)
 18. Sailor possibly let out chart (5)
 20. A woman, steer off! (5)
 22. Charming, thanks, sovereign (6)
 23. Bug the fashionable cult (6)
 25. Good man into a new position (7)
 27. At home looks after means (7)
 30. Celebration if back East on station (6)
 31. Maybe go over the channel (6)
 32. Sure, out East in a Phuket beach (5)
 35. Reverse or lay back the topmost sail on a square rigger (5)
 36. Pick-me-up? Con, it could be! (5)
 37. For a topic, a mutation in cassava starch (7)
 39. Go back over, right, create differently (7)
 41. Parking row is a joke (5)
 42. Enough, Pamela, not a move! (5)
 43. Improvised, or exempt out East (9)
 44. In turn, I shone moving round within the company (2,5)
- ### Down:
1. Do not remember counterfeit sort of shirt (6)
 2. Howler gives me cares, about right? (8)
 3. Proposal in favor of situation (11)
 4. Thing I hop around is the peak (4,5)
 5. Let down, fed up, behind schedule (7)
 6. Help idiot one with attitude (10)
 7. Call for help, nothing satisfactory results (2,2)
 10. Feel, be, unusually delicate (6)
 11. At time, sack, diverting the onslaughts (7)
 12. Carry out as result (6)
 19. Red beer brewed for the horse raiser, for example (7)
 21. Try tote unsteadily, wobbly (7)
 24. Promise a venture (11)
 26. Aroused, I'd tattle, it could be (10)
 28. In time, managed game to thrill (9)
 29. Hide once in California (7)
 30. Rue for making an uproar (6)
 32. Pastor moving round Pennsylvania produced Thai pineapple! (8)
 33. Not so far from being more tight-fisted (6)
 34. Try at allure (7)
 38. Be against work put forward (6)
 40. Make demands on one means of public transport (4)



Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Getting the answers you need is not well-starred during the first week of June. Geminis will have more success by leaving balls in other people's courts, rather than pushing for fast returns. Communication becomes more fluid towards the middle of the month. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead can look forward to a more satisfying year in the world of work. Your lucky number this week is nine.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Starting a new project is one thing, but finishing it could turn out to be a lot more than you bargained for. As the month of June commences, the stars suggest that Cancerians' enthusiasm could get in the way of practicality. Working with air and earth signs should be more rewarding. Romance with another water sign can become more serious if this is what you want. The number three seems special this week.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

You can be easily influenced during the first half of June and the stars caution that this can have negative results. There is a fine line between having an optimistic outlook and ignoring negative factors,

particularly where investments are concerned. In the realm of romance, an earth sign's lukewarm response comes as a surprise after their initial enthusiasm. The number four can attract good luck for Leos this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Conversations are forecast to be important during the first few days of June and those born under the sign of Virgo should choose their words carefully. Important meetings are best delayed until later in the week. The stars advise that dreams can give hints of fresh possibilities. Those who have been stuck in a rut are predicted to be more inspired as this month progresses. Number six can be fortunate this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Trying out new ways to enhance your leisure time is highlighted this month. Those born under the sign of Libra who have kept a low profile lately will be more motivated to get out and about in June – another air sign friend is forecast to provide inspiration for this. If you have recently suffered a relationship break-up, a water sign's interest is welcome this weekend. Librans' lucky number this week is eight.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Scorpios should be in their element as the month of June gets underway. Your skills at networking will ensure that work possibilities open up, with focus on a fire sign being suitably impressed this week. While this is all happening, there are hints that your home environment needs some attention. Forgetting an important occasion can spark off arguments this weekend. Number four can encourage good fortune this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Your energy is boosted by some success at work during the first half of June. However, the stars suggest that certain Sagittarians could be confused by something that turns out to be fool's gold. It would be wise to take advice from a person with experience before committing to any costly purchase. Romance with an air sign has Cupid's support this weekend. Number five is forecast to come alive this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Communication can be less than smooth as the month of June commences. Other people are likely to think they know more than you do this week, with focus on a fire sign being determined to have the last word. Capricorns are advised to put their point of view forward as tactfully as possible. Money matters are auspicious on Monday and Tuesday. Your lucky number this week is seven.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

It will be a challenge to maintain an objective outlook at the start of June. Aquarians with stars in their eyes can be carried away on the whim of a moment. This can also relate to romance; a water sign's flirtation could be too tempting to resist, but the stars advise that you will regret getting involved too quickly. The number two shows signs of being lucky this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Pisceans are predicted to find that problems are solved more easily during the month of June. Lost items are likely to be found and this can shed welcome light on a money related dilemma. In the realm of romance, those who

doubted another water sign's sincerity should soon have their worries laid to rest. Fortunate days for finances are Sunday and Monday. Number one appears important this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Boredom won't be an issue for those born under the sign of Aries this month. The stars suggest that you will be spoiled for choice when it comes to entertainment. Travel opportunities that you missed out on earlier this year can become feasible again – taking a trip is forecast to help revitalize a tired romance. Money matters go your way during the first half of June. Your lucky number is five.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

As June begins, the cosmic climate supports attempts to put unwanted situations or commitments behind you. If this relates to a working relationship that has turned sour, it should soon be possible to walk away with your head held high. The stars advise waiting until the second half of the month before seeking different employment. Sizzling days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. The number eight stands out for Taureans this week.

International Sport

Dylan Hartley to miss Lions tour

By Patrick Campbell

WE NOW know the final composition of the Lion's squad, the English Premiership winners, the Pro Twelve Irish champions, and the finalists in the French domestic competition.

Jonny Wilkinson, not selected for the Lions tour of Australia, but available in the case of injury, gave another vintage performance in steering European Cup winners Toulon to the French championship final with victory over Toulouse 26-9. Delon Armitage, booed whenever he touched the ball, got his own back by scoring a scintillating late try. Toulouse, three times Heineken Cup winners and packed with aging stars, are no longer the irresistible force they once were.

Leicester, another team with an impressive European Cup record, contested the English domestic final against old Midlands rivals Northampton. 81,703 spectators turned up at Twickenham, an indication of the ever-burgeoning popularity of rugby in the British Isles. The Tigers, boasting nine successive appearances in the final and six Lions in their starting line-up, were clear favorites. They

did not disappoint their supporters, wearing down a lively Northampton side, thanks to their superiority at scrum, line-out and ruck. Apart from Ben Foden, back to England form with several jinking runs and a try, the Saints' backs lacked real penetration.

But the defining moment of the game came when Dylan Hartley, the Northampton captain, was red-carded on the stroke of half-time, after accusing the referee of "cheating". Brian Moore, himself a former England hooker, called it "utter stupidity", adding it would have been "a very different story had

Northampton scored the two tries they should have in the first half." Hartley, banned on three previous occasions, and now for eleven weeks, misses the Lions tour.

The rugby Pro Twelve Final was contested by two inter-provincial Irish teams, Ulster

and Leinster. Already winners of the Amlin Cup against Stade Francais, the experienced Leinster team, marshaled by evergreen Brian O'Driscoll, survived a late onslaught to record a narrow 24-18 victory. Lion in waiting Jamie Heaslip scored a decisive late try, and Jonny Sexton, favorite for the tourist's ten shirt, kicked four penalties and a conversion. A



Dylan Hartley was red-carded after he accused the referee of "cheating". Photos: Reuters



Jonny Wilkinson clears the ball against Clermont Auvergne during the Heineken Cup Final. winning send-off for New Zealand coach, Joe Schmidt.

In other weekend games, Castres defeated Clermont Auvergne to earn an unlikely confrontation with Toulon in the French domestic final, and at Twickenham, hosting its second big game in two days, a youthful England side, with nine players under 25, ran riot against the Barbarians to the tune of 40 points to 12. The imaginative selections gave run-outs to newly recovered prop Alex Corbisiero and back-rower Ben Morgan. But it was the new boys who shone. Freddie

Burns, possibly England's next fly half, amassed 20 points. And there were debut tries from wingers Marlon Yarde and the electrifying Christian Wade, already named Player of the Year by his peers. On this evidence, England have greater strength in depth than the other home countries – including Wales.

The bulk of this team now embarks on a summer tour of Uruguay and Argentina. Like the Lions, also off to the Southern Hemisphere, they certainly won't have things all their own way. But the signs are propitious.

Europa League winners gain entry to Champions League



Chelsea players with the 2013 Europa League trophy. Photos: Reuters



Neymar representing Brazil.



Kevin Phillips scores from the penalty spot.

TO TRY and boost the ailing Europa League, UEFA president Michel Platini announced last week that – starting from the 2014/15 season – the winners would qualify for the Champions League. Platini also said that a fifth Champions League place is to be awarded to clubs in the big European leagues.

Under this new system, the Europa League winners would enter a playoff stage but various factors need to be considered before UEFA decide who makes it into the Champions League.

If the Champions League winners are from the same league as the Europa League winners, and both clubs qualify through their domestic league position, then a group place would be freed up for the Europa League winner.

If the Europa League winner and the Champions League winner come from the same league, and both teams finish outside of the top four, the team that finished fourth would enter the Europa League instead of the Champions League.

Finally, if the Europa League winners qualify for the Champions League through their league position, then the Europa League runners up will not get a Champions League spot.

Wigan, Swansea and Tottenham have qualified for next season's Europa League. A realistic scenario would be Tottenham winning the Europa League and finishing 5th in the league, which would mean that the top four teams and Tottenham would qualify for the Champions League.

This new ruling eliminates the same fate that befell Tottenham in 2012 when Chelsea finished sixth in the league but because they won the Champions league they took Tottenham's place, who finished fourth, in Europe's elite competition.

Another change brought in by UEFA means that all associations will now have a maximum three teams entering the Europa League. In addition, the number of teams directly qualifying for the group stage will be increased to 16 teams from the top 12 associations compared with the current six teams from the top six associations.

In other football news, Roberto Martinez has resigned as manager of Wigan – who were relegated to the Championship – and he is expected to succeed David Moyes at Everton.

Manchester City defender Kolo Toure has agreed to join Liverpool when his contract with City expires on July 1.

Mark Hughes is favorite to replace Tony Pulis as Stoke manager. Hughes was sacked by relegated QPR in November last year.

Former Chelsea interim manager Rafa Benitez has been unveiled as the new manager of Napoli.

Crystal Palace beat Watford in the Championship play-off final to join an already promoted Cardiff and Hull in the Premier League next season. Palace won the game 1-0 in extra time after Kevin Phillips converted a penalty in the 105th minute.

Brazilian superstar Neymar will join Barcelona from Brazilian side Santos for 51.3 million British pounds sterling. Santos accepted two bids for Neymar from Barcelona and an unnamed club, believed to be Real Madrid. The 21-year old will sign a five-year deal expected to be worth 85 million pounds.

Ashley Cole captained England in Wednesday's friendly against the Republic of Ireland. The left back was named captain as a tribute to him reaching 100 caps for his country.

– Andrew Scott

Nike severs ties with Livestrong

NIKE Inc is dropping its partnership with Livestrong Foundation, the cancer charity founded by disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong, the latest repercussion from the doping scandal that last year stripped him of his titles.

Nike said on Tuesday it would end production of its Livestrong gear and apparel after the holiday 2013 line, concluding a long-standing licensing agreement for footwear and apparel between the two that helped Livestrong raise a total of US\$100 million over the course of the partnership.

"We expected changes like this," Katherine McLane, a Livestrong spokeswoman, said in a conference call with reporters. "Could there be fallout? Of course," she said. "We remain enormously confident. ... We are in strong fiscal shape."

Nike Inc also distributed Livestrong's ubiquitous yellow wrist-bands, of which 87 million

were sold worldwide.

Armstrong founded Livestrong in 1997 after being diagnosed with testicular cancer. The group flourished during his cycling career, in which he won the Tour de France seven times.

The cyclist, who stepped down from Livestrong's board last October, admitted in January to systematic use of banned, performance-enhancing drugs after years of denials.

"This does show there are pros and cons of (a philanthropic foundation) being so closely associated with one person," said Patrick Rooney, associate dean of academic affairs and research at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Still, Rooney predicted a large enough number of people would be able to separate Armstrong's misdeeds and the foundation's good works that it could survive.

Livestrong said its 2013 budget is \$38.4 million, a 10.9 per cent reduction from 2012, but that



ICONIC: Lance Armstrong pictured wearing his Livestrong wristband at a cancer summit. Photo: Reuters

revenue projections were ahead by 2.5 per cent.

Livestrong has similar licensing deals with sports eye wear maker Oakley, owned by Italy's Luxottica and others.

When Lance Armstrong left Livestrong's board, Nike said it would still back the charity but no longer sponsor the man

behind it. Nike did not explain why it changed its position.

The sports gear maker will benefit from distancing itself from the scandal-tainted athlete, said Robert Boland, a professor of sport management at New York University's Tisch Center.

"Their relationship with

Livestrong was based on Lance Armstrong and his story that it's almost impossible to separate them from a branding standpoint," Boland said.

"The chief thing that is motivating Nike is they're looking to move on and put their years with Lance Armstrong behind them."

—Reuters

Swann bowls England to test victory

GRAEME Swann took a 10-wicket haul in the match as England dodged the rain clouds hovering over Headingley to wrap-up a 247-run second test victory over New Zealand on Tuesday and secure a 2-0 series triumph.

New Zealand lost their last four men in murky conditions on the final day to be bowled out for 220 after surprisingly being asked to bat last in a game that appeared to be at England's mercy much earlier before captain Alastair Cook declined to enforce the follow-on.

Cook batted again before declaring and setting New Zealand an improbable 468 to win, giving his bowlers the best part of five sessions to take 10 wickets.

"Tactically, we wanted some



New Zealand's Ross Taylor is bowled. Photo: Reuters

more wear into that pitch and you saw quite a few balls misbehaved, the rough getting deeper and deeper, and I think that proved pretty good tactics," Cook told BBC radio.

"If you're nit-picking, with that last 45 minutes yesterday, you could have said we could have pushed on but obviously we were pretty happy with the position we got ourselves in."

England's game plan was nearly scuppered, though, by persistent light rain and delays on Tuesday.

Off-spinner Swann, who underwent elbow surgery in March, made the most of the breaks in the clouds to take six for 90 in the second innings and return match figures of 10-132, a huge boost for England ahead of the Ashes series against Australia starting in July.

Just 48 minutes of play were possible in the morning session but any hopes that New Zealand had of holding off England while hoping for heavier rain to return were quickly lost when captain Brendon McCullum departed for one.

McCullum skewed a low full toss from Stuart Broad back to the bowler who took a sharp low catch.

Tim Southee, dropped when Jonathan Trott failed to grasp a sharp one-handed chance at first slip off Swann, fell to the same combination in the spinner's next over.

Southee clubbed two sixes and four boundaries in his entertaining cameo before the drizzle returned to force an early lunch.

When play resumed, Ian Bell snaffled Doug Bracewell at silly point to give Swann his sixth wicket and then James Anderson

secured victory when Trent Boult was caught behind, taking the paceman on to 307 wickets and level with Fred Trueman on England's all-time list.

"We knew the weather was about so we needed a couple of hours and the groundsman did a fantastic job," added Cook.

"It's great to win 2-0, they were two good performances," added Cook. "I think we played better in this game than we did at Lord's."

England won the first test by 170 runs and McCullum said the Black-caps had taken a "backward step" after a well-contested three-test drawn series between the teams in New Zealand.

"We're disappointed as we had high hopes after a great series at home but England put us under pressure and we weren't able to respond," he said.

"We made some strides forward as a batting group at home, but we've taken steps backward here. Our bowlers have been outstanding, but our batters still

have work to do, both individually and as a group."

The two sides now play three one-day internationals. The first started at Lord's on Friday.

—Reuters



Graeme Swann (right) celebrates after bowling New Zealand's Dean Brownlie. Photo: Reuters

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Resistance to Bangkok F1 race

THAILAND'S bid to stage a Formula One race in 2015 might encounter some bumps from the very outset, as there is mounting opposition to the proposal from concerned agencies and communities.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), the Committee for Conservation and Development of Krung Rattanakosin and Old Towns, as well as community leaders within Rattanakosin Island, where the race is proposed to take place, have expressed their disapproval of hosting an F1 race in the city.

Concerns about the impact of the race, proposed to be held at night in March, 2015, close to ancient sites and significant landmarks, which are abundant in the old town vicinity, including the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the Democracy Monument. Concerns about the resultant noise pollution and heavy traffic have triggered negative reactions.

The initiative to bid for an F1 circuit in the heart of Bangkok came from the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and Red Bull, following a successful driving exhibition by F1 star Mark Webber of Red Bull on Rajdamnoen Avenue in 2010, which drew huge crowds.

A proposal to stage the race started last year, and according to SAT governor Kanokphand Chulakasem, this master plan

is nearly complete for submission to the cabinet, who will decide whether the Kingdom should host the US\$225 million (6.75 billion baht) event. Even if the government, which will have to shell out 60 per cent of the event budget, backs the idea, a final decision whether to permit the race on its territory will still depend on the BMA and its Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra.

"I'm quite concerned about the idea, and disagree with using Rattanakosin Island areas for motor racing, because I'm afraid there could be some impact on ancient sites due to the loud noise and vibration. We have to verify whether these sites on the route would be affected by the race," said a key BMA official.

Last week, BMA representatives from the Culture, Sports and Tourism Department, Traffic and Transportation Department and Department of City Planning were informed about the primary idea to host the F1 by the preparation committee. According to sources, the committee was asked to reconsider the race routes due to BMA regulations, orders and other laws, which restrict the use and the organization of sporting events within and around Rattanakosin Island – a conservation area where motor racing is prohibited.

Closure of roads will be inevitable to

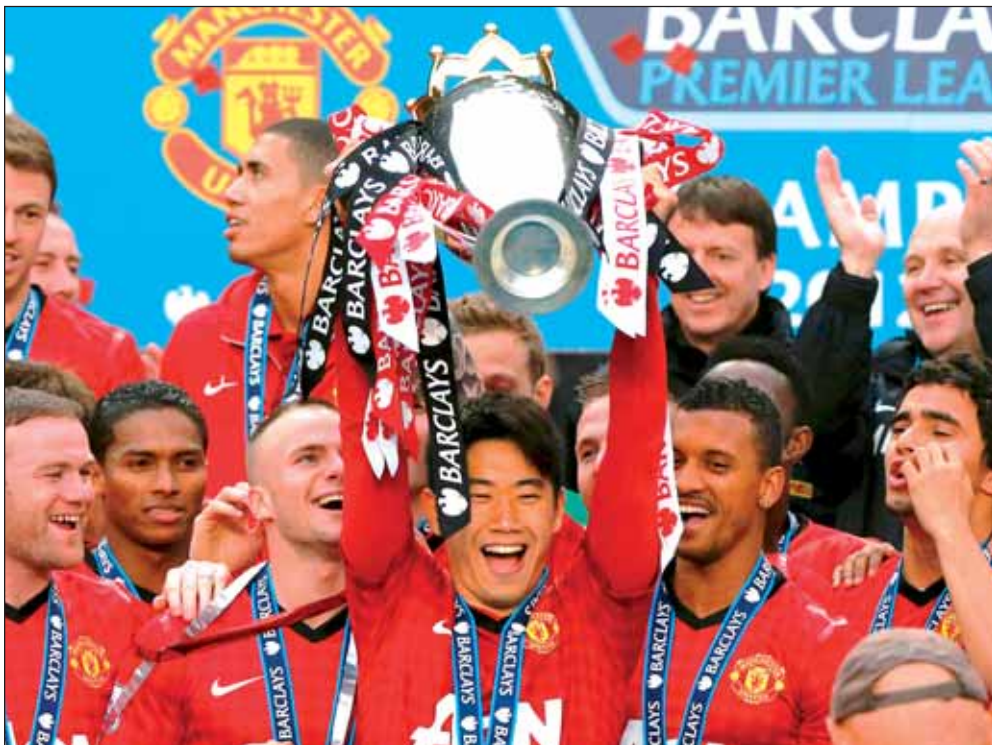


Red Bull's Mark Webber drives past Democracy Monument in Bangkok. Photo: The Nation

allow surface adjustments, the installation and construction of concrete barriers, fences, cables, pits and stands. That directly involves the Committee for

Conservation and Development of Krung Rattanakosin and Old Towns as it is this unit that will have to authorize constructions. – *The Nation*

Chelsea, United to show trophies in capital



Manchester United's Shinji Kagawa (center) won't make the trip, but their EPL trophy will.

SINGHA has confirmed that Manchester United will bring their Premier League trophy, and Chelsea are set to bring their Europa League trophy when they visit the country in July.

The English giants are scheduled to play exhibition matches to mark the 80th anniversary of Boon Rawd Brewery, global partners of the two sides. United, fresh from winning their 20th top-flight title, will be the first to play on July 13 followed by the London side four days later, both against a Singha All-Stars team at Rajamangala National Stadium.

United will touch down in the capital on July 11 before heading to sign a book of well-wishes for His Majesty the King. They will then have an open training session on the eve of their match before leaving the country for Australia the night after the game.

Chelsea will hold a week-long training camp. They also start the trip with a book-signing event for the King after arriving on July 12. Then, Singha will host a gala dinner on July 14, before a clinic and meet and greet event the following day. Chelsea will also hold a training session for the public on the eve of

their match, before leaving on July 18.

Jaturon Himathongkam, Singha's sports marketing manager, said fans would be able to watch players of the two club's first-team squads except those who are called up for the upcoming Confederations Cup in Brazil.

"The contracts we signed with the two clubs state clearly that they would come with senior squads. So, fans can watch big-name players in the flesh, except those who will miss the trip due to international duty.

"Man United have already confirmed that Mexican Chicharito [Javier Hernandez] and Japanese Shinji Kagawa will not travel with the team, as the pair got calls to represent their national sides in the Confederations Cup."

"It's a good opportunity because both teams are coming to our country after winning titles. That certainly will make supporters of both clubs happy."

Meanwhile, Singha yesterday unveiled Thai Premier League chairman Vichit Yamboonruang as the Singha All-Stars team manager and former national striker Piyapong Piew-on as the head coach.

– *The Nation*

Thai men spikers get easy draw

THAILAND have been handed a comfortable draw in the 17th Asian Mens Volleyball Championship, due to be held at the Hamdan Bin Mohammad Sports Complex in the United Arab Emirates from September 28 to October 3.

The draw for the 24-team championship took place in the UAE on Sunday. The winners will represent the continent in the FIVB World Grand Champions Cup later this year in Japan.

Thailand face Pakistan and Lebanon in Group H and look to

have a relatively easy route through to the latter stages.

Hosts UAE face Jordan and Indonesia in Group A, while Australia, the team with the best world ranking in Asia at No 11, are in Group B along with Bahrain and Myanmar. Formidable Iran, the 2011 winners on home soil, will begin their title defense in Group C against Kuwait and Kazakhstan, while China, who lost to Iran in the previous edition's final, will be up against Saudi Arabia and Taiwan in Group. Japan, who have the envious record

of seven title wins since the competition's inception in 1975, have been drawn in Group E along with Oman and Sri Lanka, while Group F consists of South Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan. Group G comprises India, Qatar and Uzbekistan.

The Thailand team is currently training at the Hua Mark Sports Center for the 2014 FIVB World Mens Championship Qualification Southeast Asian Zone, which is due to take place in Nakhon Pathom from June 26 to 28.

– *The Nation*

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Laguna Marathon



Australian 'Couple on the Run' Sue and Andrew O'Brien will bring their running philosophy to the Laguna Phuket International Marathon. Photo: Laguna Phuket

AUSTRALIAN 'Couple on the Run' Andrew and Sue O'Brien will take on the Laguna Phuket International Marathon on June 9 in the latest step of their worldwide running mission to promote shared exercise as a means of achieving personal goals.

Melbourne based Sue and Andrew became known as the Couple on the Run in 2008 when they ran eight marathons together in eight countries in eight weeks, a feat they later recounted in a best-selling book.

With more than 100 marathons under their belts, they live by the philosophy that harnessing the principles of exercising with a partner and applying this to other areas of everyday life enables people to achieve more.

They claim fitness is one part of the equation but plays only a small part, with greater benefits including shared motivation to get things started, commitment to regularity and enjoying quality time with one another – all leading to better understandings, shared goals and ultimately lessons in life.

At Laguna Phuket, Sue and Andrew will not only run the full 42 kilometer marathon, they'll also capture the experience for the *Partnerrunning Media* group incorporating their popular online Couple on the Run Webcasts and *The Partnerrunner Magazine*, as well as present their philosophy to fellow runners and visitors in a live version of *The Partnerrunning Show*.

"We've already sampled the course at Laguna Phuket and we're really excited about taking part in this great marathon with all the many other runners from around the world who'll be there," said Sue.

"This event is one we've heard a lot about and with its range of race distances for all ages and abilities, it really fits into our philosophy of harnessing running as a means to achieve personal goals."

The O'Briens combine diverse yet complementary experiences – Sue is a fitness expert and former Australian triathlon representative, while Andrew is an award-winning CEO, corporate adviser and facilitator, and the creator of their Desired Futures and Partnerrunning organizations.

These organizations aim to inspire and educate businesses and individuals to perform at their best by applying principles of vision, strategy, planning, communication, teamwork, relationships and fitness.

Andrew took up running in his 30s in order to improve his health and fitness after living an unhealthy lifestyle which resulted in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Mother-of-two, Sue has worked in the fitness industry for more than 25 years and is now a sought-after speaker and workshop presenter.

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon offers a full marathon, half marathon, 10.5k run, 91.5FM 5k community walk and 2k kids' run.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV* and 'Phuket Today' the island's only national television show.

Online registration is available at W:phuketmarathon.com with special deals at Laguna Phuket hotels also on the website.

Beach volleyball at Karon



THE FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour is to return to Karon Beach this year after an agreement to continue staging the annual event was signed recently by Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd and the Thailand Volleyball Association with the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

Several changes to the competition format have been made by the FIVB; the qualifying round is restricted to a 24 team draw, while the double elimination system has been discontinued in the main draw and is replaced by a similar format to that used at the 2012 Olympic Games, namely pool play followed by single elimination in the latter stages of the tournament.

The 2013 tournament is expected to draw over 50 top women's beach volleyball teams from around the globe to Karon beach, which as one of the few natural beach venues on the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour and has always been popular with the teams. Up to six Thai teams will be eligible to enter the event.

Past winners of the tournament include the current Olympic Champions, Kerry Walsh and Misty May-Treanor and former World Champions Jennifer Kissy and April Ross.

The tournament is the largest annual beach sporting event in Southeast Asia.



Karon Beach will again host the event.

It is part of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour Open series and will be held over six days from October 29 to November 3.

To develop local interest in the sport, beach volleyball clinics and an inter-schools tournament will be held alongside the main event.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV* and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show.

For further information on the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour in Thailand, please contact Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd at 02-3113414/5 or [W: pentanglepromotions.com](http://W:pentanglepromotions.com).



Paula Radcliffe, women's marathon world record holder. Photo: JSkilling

Basic training tips for runners

AS WE all know, Phuket is a world renowned holiday destination for thousands of people from around the globe. But did you also know it is one of the ultimate training and competition destinations in the eyes of international athletes?

The island has mountains, hill trails, sandy beaches, beautiful coastlines and hosts many local and international sporting events – so why not make the most of them? With the first quarter quickly behind us and a watery wake-up after the Thai New Year, people are asking me how to get in shape for local charity runs, triathlons, marathons and even iron man events. So here we go.

The distance run in a marathon is 26 miles and 385 yards. So why do people throw themselves into this type of race? Many want to tick the marathon box off their checklist, some just love running and others thrive on the challenge to get fit. It's a funny fact that many first time runners choose to start with a marathon. So let's kick



off with the basics.

1) Work backwards from the actual date of the race so you can pre-determine how many weeks you have to build your strength and endurance. Most first time marathon runners (novices) will need at least 25-35 weeks to condition themselves for such an event. More experienced runners may only need 10-20 weeks prep time, depending on their current running fitness and ability.

2) Start slowly and build your endurance gently over time. Most coaches believe one long run session per week (usually performed on the day after a full rest or active rest day) plus 2-3 walk /run training days per week is required for beginners. I repeat; take it easy. If you need to mix jogging with walking, that is fine. In fact, fast walking itself is a great activity to

include into your weekly routine.

3) Monitor your heart rate. When I trained with Mark Allen (Ex-World Ironman Champion) he recommended keeping your heart rate below 140 BPM (especially on hills) for the first 5-10 weeks of base training. I would follow this advice as it builds a great aerobic base and helps with lung capacity early in the game.

4) It is not just about the running. While running is the base of your training, avoid the very real trap inherent in any sport or athletic endeavour – to believe that more is better. Over training can lead to psychological and physiological challenges, as well as injuries, so plan your rest and recovery days to be as important as your training.

5) Cycle your training with periods of both high and low volume exercise, in order to build your endurance. This is called periodization and is used by most coaches around the world. Avoid constantly trying to increase your distance and to go further each

time you head out the door.

6) Building endurance means starting slow, yet you do not want to train the systems in your body to operate in slow mode 100 per cent of the time. (If you always train slow you will always be slow) Speed work needs to be considered. Focus on perfecting your running technique first, and when you do speed work, warm up thoroughly and train correctly. Please note that speed work is tough on the body, and if you are doing more distance and speed work, both your intensity and your load has increased. I suggest finding a qualified and experienced trainer to help structure a specific program.

So there you go, the basics to get you started on your endurance training. I hope these tip will continue to enhance your training knowledge and improve your athletic lifestyle in the stunning surroundings of Phuket!

Follow Hayden on W: Facebook/ [RhodesToHealth](https://www.facebook.com/RhodesToHealth)

Islanders draw Trat, down Krabi

By Steven Layne

PICKING up their seventh draw in 12 matches, Phuket FC let a two goal lead slip in their away match to Trat FC last Saturday night, which ended with a final score of 3-3.

It was a roller coaster ride for the hundreds of fans across the island – tuned in to the live *Football Siam* TV broadcast – in addition to nearly two thousand more who attended the match at Trat's Central Sports Stadium, just to the west of the Thai-Cambodian border.

It was both side's 12th match of the 34-fixture Yamaha League One (YL1) 2013 season.

Phuket's Nenebi scored the opening goal 10 minutes in, heading in a well placed corner kick from fellow defender, Tongchai Kuenkhunthod.

The Islanders doubled their lead in the opening minutes of the second half, with Georgian forward, Giorgi outrunning his marker, and beating the Trat keeper at the near post.

Out with a minor leg injury, star striker, Luiz “Dudu” Purcino anxiously watched on from Nork Sanam cafe, across the street from Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town.

Phuket must have felt déjà vu when their two goal lead rapidly

Islanders swoop down on Krabi's Andaman Eagles

PHUKET FC advanced to 4th place of the 18-team Yamaha League One (YL1) after downing Krabi FC in a Phang Nga Bay derby match last Wednesday night (May 29) in Phuket Town.



Doumeng scores the opening goal..

Following a scoreless first half, the deadlock was broken 8 minutes into the second half through a beautiful strike by Phuket's French midfielder, Geoffrey Doumeng.

The home team doubled their lead 20 minutes later through Chana Sonwiset, scoring his

second of the season. Doumeng was named Man-of-the-Match.

Krabi dropped into 11th place while Phuket moved up to 4th. The Islanders next home match is on July 9 vs 2nd place PTT Rayong.

slipped away after Trat's Chokchai Chuchai and Tinnakorn Asurin – both defenders – scored within three minutes of each other from set plays, in the 55th and 57th minutes, respectively.

With the playing field level, the mood in Phuket's cafes and bars was quickly flipped upside down when another home-team defender, Trairong Kaenjun gave his side the advantage.

Back on the attack, the visitors' Ivorian stalwart, Nenebi, went on to assist Giorgi who scored his second and the equalizer on 87 minutes.

Despite five minutes of injury time given, neither side could break the deadlock. The match was the highest scoring professional football match in the Kingdom that evening.

Phuket travel to Saraburi this Saturday. (See panel, top right).

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Rayong FC VS Korat FC					
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SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013			16:00		
Rayong Utd. VS Trat FC					
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013			18:00		
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